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ABSTRACT

This KIDS COUNT report details trends in the well-being of children in the District of Columbia. Following an executive summary describing overall findings, the report presents the statistical portrait based on eight areas of children's well-being: (1) general population trends; (2) economic security; (3) family attachment and community support; (4) homeless children and families; (5) child health; (6) safety and personal security; (7) education; and (8) youth risk behaviors. The report then presents a prevention message based on findings, followed by strategies and recommendations for various stakeholders, including District of Columbia residents, religious and faith-based institutions, health providers, businesses and community groups, and the philanthropic community. The report concludes with information on data gathering, sources and definitions, and acknowledgements. Among the findings are a decline in population, particularly families with children; a loss of jobs; an increase in homeless families; improved overall adequacy of prenatal care; declining rate of deaths among children and teens; improved SAT and math scores, but reading scores still below national average; a decline in graduation rates; and a decline in number of students eligible for free or reduced price lunches. (HTH)

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EVERY KID COUNTS

in the District of Columbia

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7th ANNUAL FACT BOOK 2000

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The D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative for Children and Families is a unique alliance of public and private organizations using research to support advocacy for change in human, social, and economic policies and practices of government, the private sector, families, neighborhoods, and individuals. Its mission is to advocate for the interests and well-being of children and families and to ensure their healthy development and future in the District of Columbia. An organizing goal of the collaborative is to build a strong and serious child and family support movement in the Nation's Capital.

Since the formation in 1990 of the Collaborative's predecessor organization, the Coalition for Children and Families, over 80 individuals and organizations representing a broad and diverse group of advocates, service providers, government policy makers, universities, fraternal and volunteer organizations, and local citizens have been a part of the group.

The Collaborative supports a comprehensive approach to community building, but focuses its research and advocacy efforts on economic security, family attachment and community support, health, safety and personal security, and education.

D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative
Partner Agencies

D.C. Children's Trust Fund for the Prevention of Child Abuse
Overall fiscal and management responsibility
Data collection, analysis and evaluation
Production of publications

Children's National Medical Center
Media/data dissemination
Public education/awareness

The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness
Collection, evaluation and dissemination of information about best models and practices
Development of quality standards and measures

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EVERY KID COUNTS

in the District of Columbia

7th ANNUAL FACT BOOK 2000

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Table of Contents

Purpose of the Fact Book pg. 3
Overview – D.C. Report Card 4

I. **Executive Summary** 6

II. **Selected Indicators of Child Well-Being in the District of Columbia**
A. General Population Trends 10
B. Economic Security 14
C. Family Attachment and Community Support 15
D. Homeless Children and Families 17
E. Child Health 18
F. Safety and Personal Security 22
G. Education 27
H. Youth Risk Behavior 32
I. Selected Indicators by Ward 34

III. **Children and Youth: The Importance of Prevention** 37

IV. **D.C. KIDS COUNT Strategies and Recommendations**
A. Recommendations 39

V. **A. Word About the Data** 42

VI. **Acknowledgments** 44
KIDS COUNT on Tour 2000 45

LIST OF GRAPHS AND TABLES

II. Selected Indicators of Child Well-Being in the District of Columbia

A. GENERAL POPULATION TRENDS
Trends in Total Population, District of Columbia, 1990-1999 10
Changes in Pre-School and School-Age Populations, 1990-1999 11
Births to D.C. Residents, District of Columbia, 1988-1998 11
District's Children by Race and Ethnicity, 1998 12
Change in Number of Jobs, District of Columbia, 1990-1999 13
Change in Number of Employed Residents, District of Columbia, 1990-1999 13

B. ECONOMIC SECURITY
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed, Washington, DC, 1990-June 2000 14
Children Receiving Welfare Assistance, Washington, DC, 1990-June 2000 15

C. FAMILY ATTACHMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT
Percent of Children in Homes with Absent Fathers District of Columbia, 1970-1998 16
Percent of Births to Single Mothers District of Columbia, 1988-1998 16
Percent of Births to Teenage Mothers District of Columbia, 1988-1998 16
Cases Filed for Paternity, D.C. Superior Court, 1989-1999 17
Cases Filed for Child Support, D.C. Superior Court, 1989-1999 17

D. HOMELESS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
New Homeless Families Applying for Shelter at Central Intake District of Columbia, 1996-1999 17

E. CHILD HEALTH
Adequacy of Prenatal Care for D.C. Mothers, 1996, 1997, and 1998 18
Infant Mortality Rate (Under One Year), District of Columbia,1988-1998 19
Percent of Low Birth Weight Infants, District of Columbia, 1988-1998 19
Children and Teens Diagnosed with AIDS by Age Group, District of Columbia, Cumulative as of December 31, 1997 and December 31, 1998 20
Children and Teens Diagnosed with AIDS through December 31, 1998 Living with AIDS and Deceased, District of Columbia 20
Cases of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis Diagnosed in Persons Under Age 20, District of Columbia, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 21
Percent of Diagnosed Cases of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis by Age Group, District of Columbia, 1999 21
Comparison of District of Columbia and Nation on Major Vital Statistics and Health Indicators of Children, 1998 and 1999 21

F. SAFETY AND PERSONAL SECURITY
Child and Teen Deaths by Age District of Columbia, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 22
Violent Deaths to Teens Ages 15 to 19 District of Columbia, 1987-1998 22
Deaths to Teens Ages 15 to 19 by Homicide and Legal Intervention District of Columbia, 1988-1998 23
Causes of Violent Deaths to Teens 15 to 19 Years Old District of Columbia, 1997 and 1998 23
Cases Filed for Child Abuse, District of Columbia, 1989-1999 23
Cases Filed for Child Neglect, District of Columbia, 1989-1999 24
Abuse and Neglect Referrals by Age of Child D.C. Superior Court, 1999 24
Juvenile Cases Referred to D.C. Superior Court For All Causes, 1989-1999 25
Juvenile Cases Referred to D.C. Superior Court For Acts Against Public Order, 1988-1999 25
Juvenile New Referrals by Type of Act, D.C. Superior Court, 1999 25
Juvenile Cases Referred to D.C. Superior Court For Offenses Against Persons, 1988-1999 26
Juvenile Cases Referred to D.C. Superior Court For Acts Against Property, 1988-1999 26

G. EDUCATION
Combined Math/Verbal Scores on Scholastic Aptitude Test D.C. Public Schools vs. National Average, 1992 – 1999 27
Percent of Students Performing at Basic Proficiency Level or Higher, Stanford 9 Achievement Tests for Reading D.C. Public Schools, 1998, 1999, and 2000 28
Percent of Students Performing at Basic Proficiency Level or Higher Stanford 9 Achievement Tests for Reading D.C. Public Schools vs. the Nation, 2000 29
Percent of Students Performing at Basic Proficiency Level or Higher Stanford 9 Achievement Tests for Mathematics D.C. Public Schools, 1998, 1999, and 2000 30
Percent of Students Performing at Basic Proficiency Level or Higher Stanford 9 Achievement Tests for Mathematics D.C. Public Schools vs. The Nation, 2000 30
Graduation Rate for Classes of 1989 to 1999, D.C. Public Schools 31
Enrollment in Kindergarten, Pre-Kindergarten and Pre-School Classes D.C. Public Schools, 1989/90 –1999/2000 School Year 31
Free and Reduced Lunch Prices in D.C. Public Schools, 1991/92 – 1999/2000 32

H. YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR
Comparison of Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance of the District of Columbia vs. the Nation, 1999 33

I. SELECTED INDICATORS BY WARD
Ranking of Wards by Indicators of Child Well Being, District of Columbia, 1998 34
Comparing the Wards on Indicators of Child Health and Welfare, District of Columbia, 1998 and 2000 36

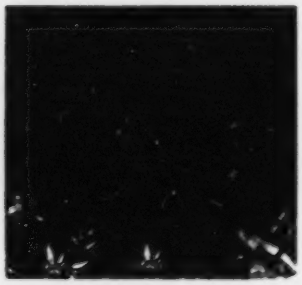
PURPOSE OF THE FACT BOOK

This fact book is the seventh annual report produced by the D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative on the lives of children and their families in the District of Columbia. The purpose of the annual fact book is to provide data about the well being of children in the District of Columbia and to place statistics within a meaningful context to guide public policy and program development. The majority of the indicators reported herein were selected by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Center for the Study of Social Policy to mirror those reported in the National KIDS COUNT Data book that Casey produces annually. D.C. KIDS COUNT has continued to expand the original list to include additional indicators that are relevant to the District of Columbia. We have included new indicators, which we feel you will find useful, and we encourage suggestions for additions from our readers.

The publication provides a broad perspective of the status of children and youth in the District. We seek to inform and educate our readers about the issues affecting children and their families in the District. We encourage community residents, policy makers, professionals, and others who work with and on behalf of children and families to create conditions that foster the optimal health and development of our children.

As usual, we stress the importance of family and community in the lives of our children. We at KIDS COUNT believe that an approach based on systems theory is needed to affect real change in the District. Accordingly, children, families, communities, and government institutions are viewed as an interconnected whole. Thus, when family support systems are dysfunctional in one area, the entire system may be impacted. In devising solutions to the problems facing children in the District, the interactions and relationships among and between the components of the system must be understood and the systemic impact of any changes considered.

We urge community leaders to use this report, in conjunction with previous reports, for formulating strategic plans and enacting policies that support children and families in the District. We also hope that the fact book will serve as a catalyst for service providers, business leaders, local government, funders, and community members. This will enable everyone concerned about children to continue their efforts to collectively address the issues presented in this report so that, ultimately, all families in this great city can function optimally.



TO START WITH...

Welcome to the Year 2000 edition of the D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative's Annual Fact Book — our seventh to date. In honor of the new millennium, we have made a number of changes and additions that we hope you will find helpful. Among them are:

- Our new "District of Columbia's Report Card." It gives a comprehensive but easy to understand view of how the District stands relative to last year's report on our numerous indicators of children's well-being. For each, you can readily see whether it has changed for the better, become worse, or remained the same.

- A table showing the District's standing relative to the nation on key vital statistics and indicators of children's health.

- Data from the recently-completed 1999 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, putting the risky behavior of the District's youth in the context of the national picture on such matters as violence, substance abuse, and unprotected sex.

- Expanded ward-level data.

- A new three-column format that we hope will make the report easier to read, while at the same time allowing greater flexibility in the use of charts, pictures, and tables.

As always, we provide charts that show, for those indicators where we can get the data, not only how the latest year compares with last year — or with one previous year, like 1990 — but the numbers for all years in the previous ten, and sometimes more.

In our opinion, this longer, trend-oriented view is essential to understanding where the District has come from and where it is going. Sometimes a comparison with just one previous year suggests that things are getting worse for the city's kids — whereas it may be just one small setback in a generally improving picture.

Sometimes, unfortunately, it is the reverse. In any case, we feel that the year-by-year charts give an easy-to-grasp picture of how this year fits into the real trend — or if there is any trend at all.

The figures we report here will not match those shown for the District of Columbia in the national KIDS COUNT Data Book for 2000, published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In addition to the national report, Casey funds the District of Columbia and most of the 50 states, to prepare their own KIDS COUNT reports to provide more depth and detail at the state level than is possible in a national-level report.

In our case, it also enables us to provide more recent data. We present the data for the latest year for which reliable figures are available — 1998, 1999, and sometimes 2000. In the national volume, all data are for 1997. We also report on many more indicators than does the national data book.

Sometimes our 1997 data will disagree slightly with the same items in the national report. That is because the primary source of our data is the District of Columbia Government, while the national book employs data from federal agencies. The two sources sometimes use slightly different data collection methods. Neither is necessarily better than the other.

THE DISTRICT'S YEAR 2000 REPORT CARD

As the District of Columbia's Report Card, shown herewith, demonstrates, almost all of our indices of children's well-being show improvement this year over last year. It is by far the District's best showing in the seven years we have produced this report.

For the first time, we believe that positive trends may be emerging that could have staying power. Increased efforts to address children's needs by governmental and private agencies, as well as by the District's families them-

selves, seem to have begun to take effect. An improving economy has undoubtedly helped as well.

We remain a bit cautious, however, because too many improving indicators have reversed direction in the past. And we are aware that serious problems still exist.

Most of our indices are not only in better shape than they were last year, but also better than in 1990. At that point in time, many were at or close to their worst levels.

But we should keep in mind that most of the children whose situations are portrayed in this year's statistics are not the same children as in 1990. Almost all of those who had passed their 8th birthdays by that year are now adults. Many who were younger have moved out of the city since that time.

Some of those who still reside in D.C. may be among those who faced the worst hardships. The health and environmental problems they encountered when they were younger may still be troubling them, and even worse challenges may lie ahead.

The indicators show that this is no time to become complacent. Serious problems remain, affecting not only the District's current children but also its future adults. This is a time for responsive action to ensure that the statistics continue to show steady improvement and sustained favorable outcomes.

The District of Columbia's Year 2000 "Report Card"

Changes Since Last Year's Report on Indices of Children's Well-Being

	Changed for the Better	Changed for the Worse	Unchanged
Family Attachment and Community Support			
Percent of Births to Single Mothers	X		
Percent of Births to Teenage Mothers	X		
Cases Filed for Paternity	X		
Cases Filed for Child Support	X		
Child Health			
Percent of Mothers with Adequate Prenatal Care	X*		
Infant Mortality Rate	X		
Percent of Low Birth Weight Infants	X		
AIDS Diagnosed in Children and Teens:			
Ages 0-12	X*		
Ages 13-19		X	
Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Persons Under 20:			
Chlamydia	X		
Gonorrhea	X		
Syphilis	X		
Safety and Personal Security			
Deaths to Children and Teens	X		
Violent Deaths to Teens	X		
Teens Killed by Homicide and Legal Intervention	X		
Cases Brought Against Parents in Superior Court:			
For Child Abuse	X		
For Child Neglect	X		
Juvenile Cases Referred to Superior Court:			
For All Causes	X		
For Alleged Acts Against Public Order	X		
For Alleged Offenses Against Persons	X		
For Alleged Property Crimes	X		
Education			
Combined Math/Verbal Scores on SAT	X		
Stanford 9 Tests in Reading:			
First Grade	X		
Sixth Grade	X		
Eleventh Grade		X	
Stanford 9 Tests in Math:			
First Grade	X		
Sixth Grade	X		
Eleventh Grade			X
Graduation Rate		X*	

* See text for caveats

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I.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GENERAL POPULATION AND ECONOMIC TRENDS AFFECTING CHILDREN IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Population

- Like a number of other large cities, the District has been losing population for decades. The downward trend has accelerated in the past decade. Census Bureau statistics for 1999 show that the city lost nearly 88,000 residents since 1990 — over 14 percent.
- Families with children have been moving out of D.C. eight times as fast as they have moved in. School age children (5-17 years) numbered only 67,990 by 1999, 15 percent fewer than in 1990. Preschool children (under 5) totaled 27,300, 29 percent fewer.
- The number of births dropped by 35 percent between 1990 and 1998. Furthermore, over one-third of babies born to D.C. residents had left the city by the time they were ready for kindergarten.
- The population loss has been moderating; but if a reversal occurs it is likely to be gradual and tentative. Parents and would-be parents are unlikely to return unless they feel that their families will be safe and their children will have good schooling.
- To the extent that the city's problems fall upon its children, they fall mostly on minority children. Figures indicate that 78 percent of the District's children were Black or African American in 1998. Nineteen percent were White, three percent were Asian or Pacific Islanders, and two-tenths of one percent were Native Americans. Hispanics, who can be of any race, were nine percent of the total.

The Economy

- In 1999, the District of Columbia had about 616,000 jobs vs. 519,000 residents. But more than half of the city's jobs were filled by suburbanites, and only 264,000 D.C. residents were working at jobs located either in the city or in its suburbs.
- From 1990 to 1999 the District lost 70,000 jobs, more than ten percent. More than half, 36,000, were federal jobs, many of which went to the suburbs.
- More than one-fourth of the lost jobs were D.C. Government jobs, which were simply eliminated. The remainder were in the private sector, and some of these also were relocated to the suburbs.
- People tend to follow jobs, and the job loss may have helped accelerate the movement to the suburbs. While both jobs and the population declined, the District's share of adults in the prime working-age group (18-64) who were employed remained the same in 1999 as it had been in 1990 — 75 percent.
- In the past year or so the downward job trend has reversed slightly, with the small gain being due entirely to growth in the private sector. The number of employed persons has increased.
- The unemployment rate, which was above or close to eight percent for most of the 1990s, dropped to a seasonally adjusted 4.4 percent in June of 2000 — a rate lower than any seen in the last decade. The suburban unemployment rate was less than half that figure.
- Today, fewer than half as many District residents are unemployed than during some months in the mid-1990s. But the improving job trend is tenuous at best. Its continuation probably depends on the maintenance of a full employment economy in the nation as a whole.

Economic Security

- The 1990 Census reported that 16.9 percent of D.C. residents were poor by the stringent federal poverty standard. In this respect, Washington ranked 17th highest among the 25 largest U.S. cities. The national rate was 13.5 percent.
- Since the federal poverty threshold is not adjusted for local living costs and Washington is a very expensive city, many of its residents who are not officially poor are in extreme hardship nonetheless.

- Census Bureau poverty estimates for the District since 1990 are based upon an annual sample survey taken by the Bureau. The 1997 estimate, the latest now available, indicates that the rate had increased by 18 percent since 1990. At the same time, the population decreased by about 13 percent, suggesting that the number of poor persons increased.

Two other studies do not agree, showing little change in the poverty rate since 1990, but some decrease in the number of poor people due to population loss.

Nonetheless, no matter which is closer to the true amount, it seems clear that the incidence of poverty in the Nation's capital has been reduced little if at all in the past decade, and may have grown worse.

- A much higher percentage of the District's children than of all its residents were in poverty in 1990 — 25.5 percent vs. 16.9 percent for the total population. An even higher 27 percent were in poverty among those below age five. Owing to sample size limitations in the Census survey, no later reliable data are available.
- The number of children receiving financial assistance from the D.C. Government has shrunk by 30 percent since 1996, the year the Welfare Reform Act was passed. The number of food stamp recipients is down by 16 percent.
- How much of either of these reductions has been due to the decline in the child population is not completely clear. However, over the period from July of 1997 to July of 1999 the TANF caseload (including both adults and children, but mainly children) decreased by 21 percent, while the number of children was down by 10 percent.

Family Attachment and Community Support

- Nearly three D.C. children in five are now growing up in homes where the father is absent. The percentage increased from 49 in 1990 to 58 in 1998, the latest reliable figure. At least in part, this level reflects a high unemployment rate among younger minority males.
- The percent of D.C. babies that are born to single mothers has declined for the second year in a row. In 1998, the latest year for which this statistic is now available, it stood at 63 percent — lower than any year since 1988.
- Also for the second straight year, the percentage of all births that are to teenagers 19 or younger has fallen. It was 15.3 percent in 1998, lower than any year since at least 1982.
- Paternity cases filed with the D.C. Courts decreased in 1999, also for a second year, to reach 1,427. This is the lowest level since 1984. While the number of paternity cases tends to fluctuate wildly, the trend has been generally downward since 1992.
- Child support cases declined by one-third in 1999 to 887. This is the first time the number has dropped below 1,000 since 1990. During most of the 1980s, however, the level was still lower.

Homeless Children and Families

- In 1999, 962 new families with 2,151 children applied for shelter at the District's central intake center for families, one of a wide variety of facilities and services offered the city's homeless since 1995 by The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP).
- The 1999 figure is a decrease from 989 families in 1998, and is the third consecutive decrease in as many years.
- In 1999, programs for families made homeless as a result of domestic violence served 85 families with 180 children.

Child Health

For most health indicators, the latest available data are for 1998.

- The overall adequacy of prenatal care for D.C. mothers improved in 1998 for the sixth consecutive year, and 60.7 percent of mothers received care defined as adequate. Inadequate care plays a major role in infant mortality and low birth weights.
- The percent of mothers who received inadequate care, or no care at all, has improved much less. By 1998, 17.3 percent — more than one mother in six — were still in this situation, and 22 percent more received "intermediate" care.
- The District's infant mortality rate has decreased for the fourth year in a row, to 12.5 per 1,000 births. It is still nearly twice the national level of 7.2.
- The percentage of babies born at weights below 5 1/2 pounds has dropped for the second straight year, to 13.2 percent, and is at its lowest level since 1986.
- AIDS cases among D.C. children 12 years old and under increased for a second year, rising in 1998 to 168 from 157 in 1997. However, the rate of increase has slowed a bit. (The AIDS figures are cumulative, they include all children ever diagnosed with the disease, among them those already deceased.)
- Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) decreased by 20 percent among D.C. children in 1999. All three of the most common — chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis — shared in the decrease.

Safety and Personal Security

- Deaths to children and teens numbered 185 in 1998, the third decline in as many years and a drop of nearly 17 percent since 1997.
- Violent deaths to teens aged 15 to 19 decreased for the fifth consecutive year in 1998. The number, 46, was down by 26 percent from 1997. These deaths are now down by 57 percent from their peak of 106 in 1993.

- In 1998, 33 teens died as a result of homicide or legal intervention (death at the hands of police). For the first time, the number of murders has dropped below the 46 recorded in 1988, the start of an unprecedented burst of youth violence.
- Child abuse cases filed with the D.C. Courts dropped to 192 in 1999, a 37 percent drop from 1998. Child abuse cases fluctuate considerably, yet still the abuse caseload has stayed well below the level of the late '80s and early '90s.
- Child neglect cases were down in 1999 by eight percent, the second drop in a row. Still, there is as yet no clear evidence of a consistent downward trend.
- Juvenile cases referred to the D.C. Superior Court have declined for the fourth straight year to 2,748, a level below any seen since at least 1980.
- "Public order" crimes — mainly involving drugs and weapons charges — remain the most common of which D.C. youth are accused. Their number, 1,081 in 1999, has shrunk to 43 percent of its peak in 1988. At the same time, their share of the total has increased as other types of crimes have declined more.
- Crimes against persons — chiefly assaults — are down sharply as well. Numbering 719 in 1999, they are down by 47 percent from their peak in 1993.
- Property crimes, of which 798 youths were accused in 1999, have decreased to a level below any seen since at least 1980. Nearly three in five are auto thefts.

Education

Test Performance

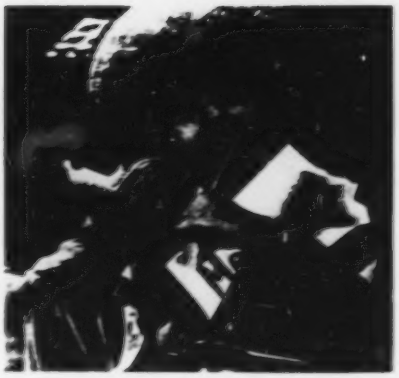
- D.C. Public Schools students have improved their combined math and verbal SAT scores slightly, from an average of 810 in 1998 to 813 in 1999. The 1999 level, however, remains one-fifth below the national average of 1,016.
- In the Stanford 9 Achievement Tests for Reading, the percentage of D.C. Public Schools students scoring at basic level or above improved in the year 2000 in nine of the eleven grades in which the test is given.
- Basic or above is the standard for promotion to the next grade. However, basic means *only partial* mastery of the knowledge and skills fundamental for satisfactory performance at the present grade level.
- The percentage of students who perform at proficient or advanced levels — in other words, at grade level or above — is much lower in all grades, typically less than half of the percentage who perform at basic and above.
- D.C. students now test at or close to the national level in reading for the first five grades. They exceed their counterparts nationally in 6th grade (with 86 percent scoring at basic or above vs. 79 percent for the nation), and in 8th grade (by 81 vs. 78 percent).
- However, District youngsters fall far short of the nation in reading in higher grades — lower by 21 percentage points in 10th grade and by 13 points in the 11th. Their continued low SAT scores reflect this fact.
- In math, D.C. students have improved their year 2000 scores even more than in reading. The increases occur in ten of the eleven grades, one more than in reading, and are as much as eleven percentage points over the 1999 level. The one exception is 11th grade, where scores have remained constant.
- Yet while they now significantly outscore their counterparts in math nationally in 6th grade (by 70 to 57 percent), they fall behind the nation in both 8th grade (by 46 to 58 percent) and 10th grade (by 28 to 39 percent).

Graduation Rates

- The graduation rate in the District's public school system is provided to us by Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools. The latest year's figure, for 1999, shows it dropping from 54 percent to 50.5 percent.
- The rate has long held above the 50 percent level, but dropped briefly below it in 1996 and came close to it in 1999. It is possible, however, that these declines are not real but are due to errors in the source data. They may also be due in part to transfers out to charter schools.

Enrollments in Kindergarten, Pre-Kindergarten and Pre-School

- Kindergarten enrollments in the D.C. Public Schools have decreased by almost 11 percent from the 1998-99 school year to 1999-2000. This is the fourth year of decline in Kindergarten enrollments, and the rate has accelerated this year.



- Pre-Kindergarten has seen a sudden and precipitous decline, dropping by 14 percent. Both Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten are now well below any level of enrollment in the past decade. These declines may be due in part at least to the impact of charter schools.
- Pre-School, the District's pioneering full-day program of early childhood education and day care for four-year-olds, saw its enrollment decline last year by about ten percent. In the 1999-2000 school year, however, the pupil count leveled off at about the same number as the 1993-1994 school year.

Free and Reduced Price Lunches

- Free and reduced price lunch eligibility peaked in 1996-97 at 54,667. This is the third consecutive year of decline, which so far has brought the number of students eligible to receive this benefit to 42,707, a 22 percent decrease. During the same period, the official public school enrollment declined by 11 percent.

II.

SELECTED INDICATORS OF CHILD WELL-BEING IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

A. GENERAL TRENDS IN THE DISTRICT'S POPULATION AND ECONOMY

Kids in the District of Columbia face both a present and a future that are shaped to a considerable degree by their demographic and economic environment. That environment is changing rapidly. Washington now has many fewer residents and many fewer jobs than it did only ten years ago.

1. The District has seen a declining population of both adults and children.

Like a number of other large cities, the District's population has been shrinking. This trend is not new. It started a half century ago. But during the past decade it accelerated greatly.

The population of the Nation's Capital peaked in 1950 at 802,000 and has been decreasing ever since. By the latest Census Bureau estimate, it had declined to 519,000 by 1999 *(Figure 1, page 10)*.

That is 283,000 fewer people, a 35 percent reduction, in five decades. From 1990 to 1999 alone, the District lost nearly 88,000 residents — almost one-third of all the people who departed during the entire half-century.

Does this mean the District is about to become deserted? Definitely not. As the capital of the world's richest nation, it has built-in strengths that no other city can match. But it is certainly changing.

The exodus of families with children from D.C. has been phenomenal. These families have recently been moving out of the city eight times as fast as they have been moving in, according to 1996 survey data from the Greater Washington Research Center.

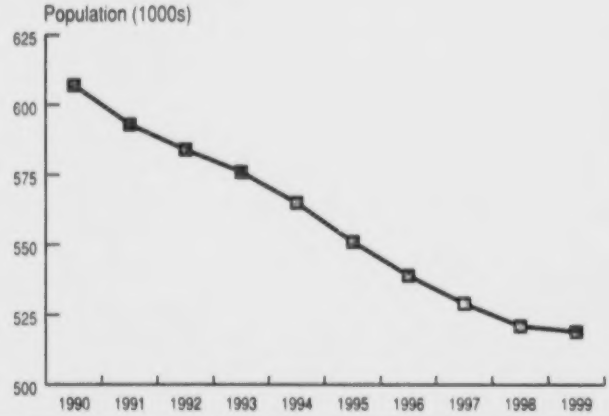
The Census Bureau estimates show that the number of children under 18 declined in number from 118,639 in 1990 to 95,290 in 1999, a nearly 20 percent decrease. The school-age population, 5 to 17 years, has declined from 80,182 in 1990 to 67,990 in 1999 *(Figure 2, page 11)*.

This represents a loss of more than 12,000, or 15 percent, in the school age group. Preschool children under five years decreased from 38,457 in 1990 to 27,300 in 1999, or by over 11,000. Numerically, that is almost the same loss as the school-age group, but since the preschool population was much smaller to begin with, it is a 29 percent drop.

Births to D.C. residents have been declining also, and even more rapidly. After peaking at 11,800 in 1990, they had decreased to under 7,700 in 1998 — a 35 percent drop *(Figure 3, page 11)*. One major reason has been the exodus of families in the child-bearing age range. Another may well be a sharp decline in the number of births to teenage mothers, to be discussed later in this report.

Figure 1

TREND IN TOTAL POPULATION
District of Columbia, 1990 - 1999

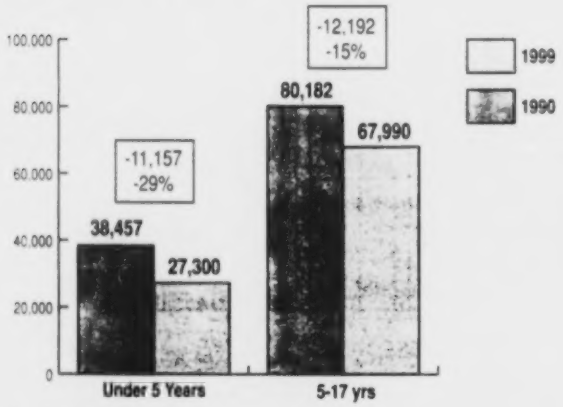


	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Population	607	593	584	576	565	551	539	529	521	519

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Figure 2

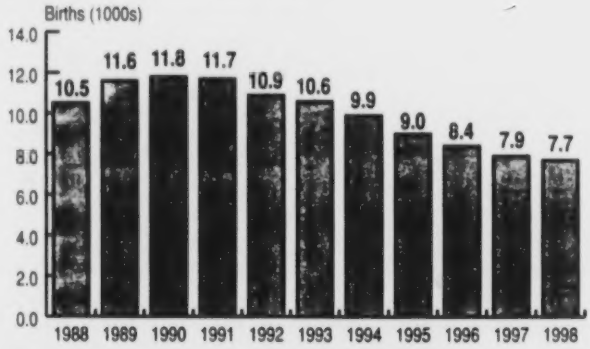
CHANGE IN PRE-SCHOOL AND SCHOOL-AGE POPULATIONS
District of Columbia, 1990 - 1999



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Figure 3

BIRTHS TO D.C. RESIDENTS
District of Columbia, 1988-1998



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Furthermore, many of the babies who were born to District residents in recent years were no longer living here by the time they were ready to enter school. In 1999, the Census Bureau estimates that only 27,300 children who were not yet five years old remained in the city — although District mothers had brought more than 43,000 babies into the world since the oldest of these children were born.

As families with children have moved out, many smaller households have moved in. Over the past several decades, the District of Columbia has become more and more a preferred place of residence for younger singles and childless couples.

The city holds significant attractions for these persons, many of whom like to live close to their places of work and to night-time entertainment and social activities. When and if they decide to have children, they usually move to the suburbs.

Thus, while its total population and child population have both gone down, the city is by no means becoming deserted. In fact, downtown Washington is more lively at night than it has been for decades.

It now seems possible that a turnaround toward a rising population could occur. The latest figures available when this was written still show a decrease. However, it has been slowing.

The District's population loss was only one-third as great in 1999 as in 1998. The loss in births from 1997 to 1998, the latest year for which we now have data, was only slightly over half as large as the year before.

But only time will tell whether the population trend will turn positive. Whether there will be an increase in families with children is even more uncertain. Real estate brokers report that they are selling many more houses than a few years ago, but that almost all are being bought by singles and childless households.

If and when the exodus of child-oriented families is stemmed, the change will probably be gradual and tentative. Parents and would-be parents are unlikely to return in growing numbers unless they are convinced that they and their families will be safe, and that their children will have good schooling.

2. More than three-fourths of D.C. children are Black or African American.

Blacks/African Americans were 62 percent of all residents of the District in 1998, but they were 78 percent of the city's children, according to Census Bureau estimates. Whites were 34 percent of the total population, but only

19 percent of children *(Figure 4, page 12).*

The differences result from the fact that more white than Black/African American households in the District today are childless. In no racial or ethnic group, however, do a majority of households have children today.

Among whites, only 13 percent of all households contain children. Among African American households, it is 34 percent. The same is true for only 11 percent of Asian households, and for 31 percent of Hispanic households (who may be of any race).

Three percent of the District's child population in 1998 consisted of Asians and Pacific Islanders, and two-tenths of one percent was Native Americans, Eskimos or Aleuts. Hispanic children were nine percent of the total.

Thus, to the extent that the District's problems fall upon its children, they fall mainly upon minority children — and upon Black or African American children, in particular.

3. There are more jobs than people in the District, but still none for many D.C. residents.

In 1999, the District of Columbia had a bit fewer than 616,000 jobs vs. a total of only 519,000 residents. However, most of these jobs were filled by suburbanites. An average of only 264,400 District residents were employed that year, in jobs located either in the District or the suburbs.

Jobs — The total number of jobs (wage and salary employment) in the District declined sharply over the past decade. In 1990 there were 686,100 jobs on average. By 1999 the number had dropped by over 70,000, or by more than 10 percent. That left the city with 615,800 jobs as it entered the new millennium.

More than half of this job loss, 36,000, was in the federal government, while employment in the District Government decreased by another 18,000. The total job reduction in government, both federal and local, was nearly 55,000. The remainder of the decrease, almost 16,000 more jobs, occurred in the private sector.

Private sector employment had actually been increasing since 1997, adding more than 10,000 jobs during that period. But in all years except 1999, the loss in government jobs had been even greater *(Figure 5, Page 13).*

However, between 1998 and 1999, for the first and only time in the decade, there was a small turnaround in total jobs — an increase of 2,400. The credit goes entirely to the private sector, which added some 5,300 jobs while government employment dropped by 2,900

Employed Residents — For decades the District has had many fewer employed residents than there were jobs located within city limits. In 1985, there were 629,000 jobs and 296,000 employed residents, a more than two-to-one ratio that has persisted since.

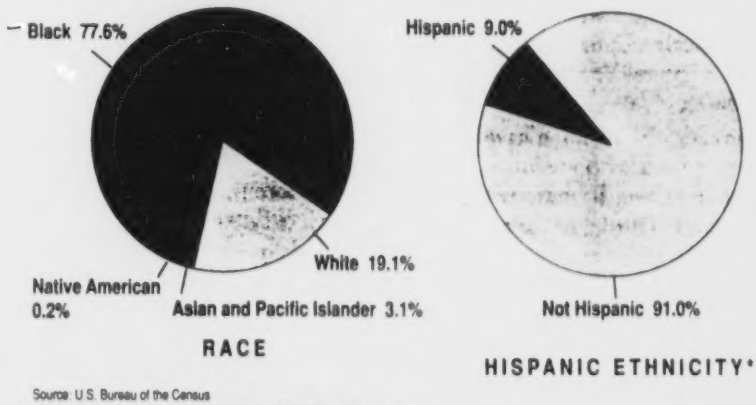
Jobs increased throughout the rest of the '80s until they peaked at 686,100 in 1990. The number of employed persons also grew, but by much less, reaching 307,400 in 1990 — fewer than half the jobs.

Thereafter, while the number of jobs in the District diminished, so did the number of its people who were employed. By 1999, it had dropped to 264,400. That was a 14 percent decrease. In January 1998, the employed population declined briefly to a level lower than any other in either the '80s or the '90s — just under 234,000 persons, 24 percent below the number in 1990 *(Figure 6, page 13).*

People tend to follow jobs, and many of the federal and private jobs went to the suburbs. Those facts could be partly responsible for the city's accelerated loss of population during the 1990s.

Figure 4

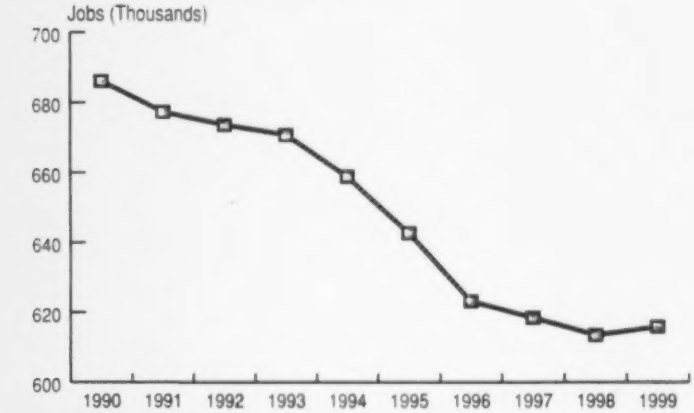
THE DISTRICT'S CHILDREN BY RACE AND HISPANIC ETHNICITY, 1998



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census
* Hispanics can be of any race, or of mixed race (Estimates for Whites, Blacks, Asians, and Native Americans include persons of Hispanic origin)

Figure 5

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF JOBS
District of Columbia, 1990 - 1999
(Wage & Salary Employment, Annual Averages)

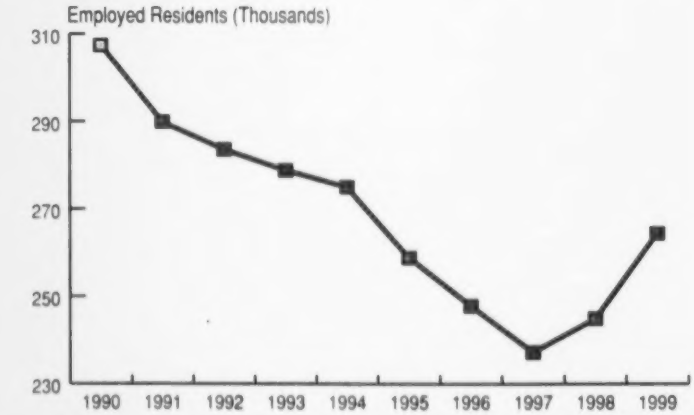


JOBS	686.1	677.3	673.6	670.7	658.8	642.6	623.1	616.4	613.4	615.8

Source: D.C. Dept. of Employment Services, Labor Market Information & Research

Figure 6

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF EMPLOYED RESIDENTS
District of Columbia, 1990 - 1999
(Annual Averages)



	307.4	289.9	283.6	278.8	275	258.8	247.8	237.2	244.9	264.4

Source: D.C. Dept. of Employment Services, Labor Market Information & Research

Between 1990 and 1999, the city lost 42,900 employed residents. In the same period, it lost 59,600 adults in the prime working age range of 18 to 64. The share of working-age adults who were employed remained the same — 75 percent in both years.

Some employed residents, seeing their jobs move to the suburbs, may simply have changed their commuting patterns. Like suburbanites, they are able to cross the city line for work. But the 18,000 fewer D.C. Government jobs did not move to the suburbs. They were simply eliminated, and many had been held by District residents.

The number of employed residents, however, did begin to increase toward the end of the decade. Between 1997 and 1998, the annual average grew by 7,700, and in the year that followed, by 19,500.

Unemployment — The unemployment rate for D.C. residents was high throughout much of the 1990s. It started the decade at 6.6 percent, rose in 1991 to 7.8 percent, and jumped again in 1992 to 8.6 percent. From that year through 1996, it did not drop below 8.0 percent.

Unemployment came down briefly in 1997 to 7.9 percent, then rose again in 1998 to 8.8. In 1999 it dropped to 6.3 percent. The latest figures when this is written, for June of 2000, show 4.4 percent unemployed on a seasonally-adjusted basis — a rate below any in the last decade, and seen only occasionally and briefly in the 1980s *(Figure 7, page 14)*.

The unemployment rolls in the District are now less than half the size they reached at some points in the mid-1990s. At this point, however, it is impossible to tell whether and how

long the improving job trend, which is tenuous at best, will continue. Much depends on how long the full employment economy lasts for the nation as a whole.

People are classified as unemployed only if they have recently tried to find a job. Thus the unemployment figures exclude many people who have been turned down so often they have given up trying. They are dubbed "discouraged workers" by those who keep the statistics, but they are invisible in the unemployment numbers, being recorded simply as "not in the labor force."

Whether they lack the necessary skills, or are disqualified by such problems as arrest records or drug addiction, many have lost hope of ever finding employment. Those most likely to be in this depressing situation consist heavily of minority members, many of them young men. And, many of these men are fathers of District children.

B. ECONOMIC SECURITY

1. The 1990 Census determined the District's poverty rate to be higher than the nation's, but lower than in most other major cities. The D.C. poverty rate may be higher today than in 1990, and probably is no lower.

The 1990 Census found that 16.9 percent of persons living in D.C. were poor — making the District 17th among the 25 largest U.S. cities in the percentage of its people who were in poverty by the federal standard. The national rate was 13.5 percent. Only seven of the 25 largest cities were below that level.

The national income thresholds for poverty, which vary with household size, are not adjusted for local economic conditions. Washington is a city with very high living costs. Thus, it has many families who are living in extreme economic hardship, even though they are not technically in poverty under the federal guidelines.

Figure 7

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(Percent of Labor Force)
Washington, D.C., 1990 - June 2000

Source: D.C. Dept. of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research

Poverty estimates for later years are available from a Census Bureau national survey, the Current Population Survey (CPS), which is done annually in all states and the District of Columbia.

The CPS sample in D.C. is quite small, fewer than 600 households. The estimates that the Census Bureau calculates by averaging several years of results from that sample have a standard error rate of nearly two percentage points. This means that they can be off by that amount in either direction, plus or minus.

In 1990, the survey reported a poverty rate of 19.2 percent in the District, 2.3 percentage points higher than the figure from the full 1990 Census. Since then, the Current Population Survey estimates indicate that the city's poverty percentage rose slowly through the first half of the 1990s, then leveled out.

The latest figures released by the Census Bureau, which are for 1997, show a poverty rate of 22.7 percent in D.C. By adjusting that rate for comparability with the 1990 Census results, we can estimate that if the full Census had been taken in 1997, it would probably have shown a poverty rate around 19.5 percent.

The federal poverty limits are very stringent. In 1997, a family consisting of a single mother and two children were officially in poverty if they had an income under $12,802.

Other studies, including a survey by the Greater Washington Research Center using a much larger sample (8,500 households), and a study for the D.C. Tax Revision Commission using income tax data, have indicated that there was little change in the poverty rate between 1990 and 1996.

However, the Research Center data indicate that the size of the poverty

population decreased from about 96,000 to about 80,000, or by 17 percent, chiefly due to the District's overall population loss during that period.

Arguably, it is probable that the poverty rate in D.C. now is somewhat lower than the 1990 rate.

2. A much higher share of D.C. children are poor compared with the city's residents of all ages.

A considerably higher percentage of the District's children than of all its residents were in poverty in 1990. The Census found the rate for those under 18 years to be 25.5 percent, with an even higher 27 percent of those below age five being poor.

Owing to sample size limitations in the CPS, no reasonably reliable later estimate of poverty is available for D.C.'s children. However, it is likely that the child poverty rate remains higher than for the total population.

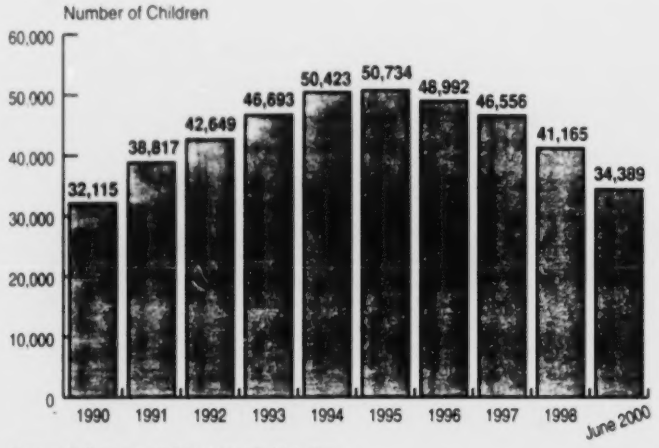
3. The number of children receiving financial assistance from the D.C. Government has shrunk by one-third since 1995, the year before welfare reform began.

Children receiving benefits from TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, the new name for welfare under the Welfare Reform Act of 1996) averaged 34,389 through June of Fiscal Year 2000 (which runs from October of 1999 through September of 2000). This was down by 32 percent from an average of 50,734 in Fiscal Year 1995.

In every year since 1995, the TANF caseload has diminished and the rate of decrease has accelerated. The partial-year FY 2000 average number of children is lower by 16 percent since 1998 *(Figure 8, page 15)*.

Figure 8

CHILDREN RECEIVING WELFARE ASSISTANCE
Washington, D.C., 1990 - June 2000



Source: D.C. Income Maintenance Administration

4. Food stamp recipients are fewer also, but by less.

Since FY 1996, the first fiscal year for which we have food stamp data available, the number of children participating in that program has also decreased, but at a slower rate. The average for FY 1996 was 50,295. The year-to-date average as of May, 2000 was 42,217.

This was a reduction of 16 percent in children receiving food stamps. By contrast, the number of children receiving TANF has decreased by 30 percent over the same 1996-2000 period.

How much of the decrease in either TANF or food stamps going to children has been due to population decline is difficult to say. The available data are not strictly comparable. But the total TANF caseload decreased in the two years from July of 1997 to July of 1999 by 4,930 cases or 21 percent. In the same period the child population decreased by ten percent, according to Census Bureau estimates.

C: FAMILY ATTACHMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

1. Nearly three D.C. children in five are growing up in homes where the father is absent.

The percentage of children who are living in homes with absent fathers has been growing rapidly. As recently as 1990, it was 49 percent. Census Bureau survey data for 1998 put it at 58 percent *(Figure 9, page 16)*.

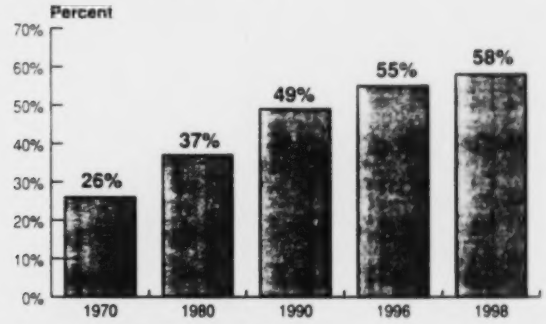
This rate reflects, at least in part, the economic problems discussed in the previous section. Too many D.C. fathers are unemployed and cannot support their offspring.

2. The percent of babies who are born to single mothers has fallen for the second year in a row.

In 1998, 63 percent of all babies born to residents of the District were to unmarried mothers. After peaking in 1993 at a staggering 73 percent, the percentage fell sharply in the following two years but then had leveled off between 1995 and 1996.

Figure 9

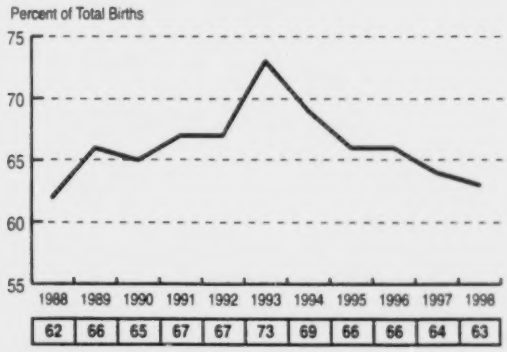
PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN HOMES WITH ABSENT FATHERS
District of Columbia, 1970 - 1998



Source: 1970 - 1990, U.S. Census of Population
1996, Greater Washington Research Center
1998, U.S. Current Population Survey

Figure 10

PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS TO SINGLE MOTHERS
District of Columbia, 1988-1998



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Figure 11

PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS
District of Columbia, 1988-1998

Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

In 1997, the decline resumed and continued at a reduced pace in 1998. At the current level, it is lower than in any year since 1988. However, it continues to be higher than in decades prior to the 1990s *(Figure 10, page 16)*.

3. The percent of births that are to teenage mothers has also declined for the second straight year.

Births to D.C. residents that are to mothers under age 20 fell to 15.3 percent of the total in 1998. The percentage had approached the current level at 15.5 in 1995, but then had jumped sharply to 16.8 percent in 1996. The decline resumed thereafter, and the 1998 level is the lowest in any year since at least 1982 *(Figure 11, page 16)*.

Since a child born to another child still in her teens may be faced with lifelong economic hardship, as will its mother, continuation of the downward trend would be a hopeful portent for the future.

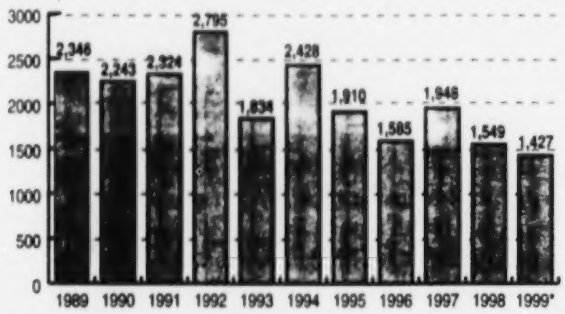
4. Paternity cases filed with the Courts have decreased, also for the second year, to reach a new low.

In 1999, 1,427 cases alleging paternity were filed with the D.C. Superior Court. This is not only the second straight decline, but the second time in which the number of paternity cases has fallen beyond the lowest level registered since 1984 *(Figure 12, page 17)*.

Paternity cases have a history of great volatility, as the chart shows, so we have no basis for forecasting that the decline will continue. Still, despite sharp fluctuations, the trend has been generally downward since 1992.

Figure 12

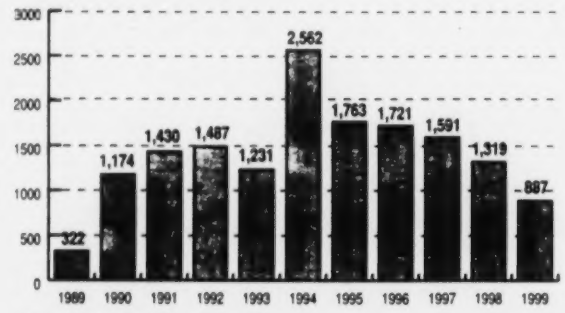
CASES FILED FOR PATERNITY
District of Columbia, 1989 - 1999*



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
*Data for 1999 are unpublished. Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

Figure 13

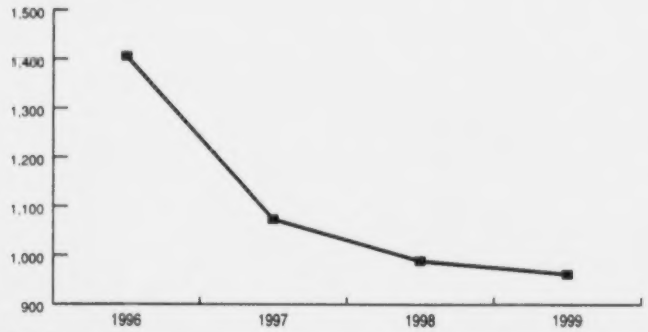
CASES FILED FOR CHILD SUPPORT
District of Columbia, 1989-1999*



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
*Data for 1999 are unpublished. Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

Figure 14

NEW HOMELESS FAMILIES APPLYING FOR SHELTER AT CENTRAL INTAKE
District of Columbia 1996-1999



Families	1,406	1,074	989	962

Source: The Community Partnership for Prevention of Homelessness

5. Child support cases have declined to a level not seen since before 1990.

In 1999, new child support cases filed with the Courts decreased to 887 from 1,319 in 1998 — a one-third drop. This brought the number below 1,000 for the first time since 1990. In the 1980s, the level was generally in the low-to-middle hundreds *(Figure 13, page 17)*.

D. HOMELESS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

1. The number of homeless D.C. families applying for shelter decreased in 1999 for the third consecutive year.

In 1999, 962 new families with 2,151 children applied for shelter at central intake for families, representing the third annual decrease of families applying for shelter since 1995. In 1998, 989 families applied for emergency shelter, a decrease from 1,074 new applicant families in 1997 and 1,406 new applicant families in 1996 *(Figure 14, page 17)*.

2. The District offers a wide variety of services for homeless families and children.

Since 1995, homeless services in the District of Columbia funded with federal and local public funds have been administered by The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP).

The services, or homeless continuum of care, include prevention, outreach to the streets, emergency shelter, transitional housing programs, permanent housing programs with supportive services and stand-alone services such as health care, job training and day care for homeless individuals and families with children.

3. In all, more than 1,600 families with over 4,900 members received homeless services in 1999.

The figures above concern only those families applying for emergency shelter. Although central intake statistics indicate how many families enter the homeless services system, transitional, permanent and supportive service programs such as day care can also be accessed through other means, such as through referrals from case workers, churches and medical clinics.

In total, the public continuum of care for homeless families in the District directly served approximately 1,631 families including 4,939 family members in emergency shelter as well as through other housing and supportive service programs in 1999.

Emergency shelter for families includes 146 apartments (including those set aside for women and children who are victims of domestic violence) which can be accessed through central intake for families at the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center.

Sixty percent of the children served at the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center in 1999 were 5 years of age or younger, a decrease from 63 percent in 1998, but an increase from 57 percent in 1997. Of the families that applied for shelter in 1999, 303 were placed into emergency apartments or alternative placements.

At the end of 1999, 360 families with children remained on the waiting list for shelter, an increase from 267 in 1998. Eighty-five percent of families applying for shelter were living with family or friends. The majority of families consist of one parent and two children.

Late in 1999, The Community Partnership increased the effectiveness of the Family Resource Center by adding rooms and services for 50 families with immediate shelter needs at D.C. Village in Southeast Washington, and by adding access to flexible, community-based options to families waiting for shelter space. Next year's data will show the effectiveness of these new initiatives.

E. CHILD HEALTH

The latest available data for most indicators of child health as this year's edition goes to press are for 1998. A few items, including those for sexually transmitted diseases, are available for 1999.

1. The overall adequacy of prenatal care for D.C. mothers has improved for the sixth consecutive year, but by 1998 more than one mother in six still received care defined as inadequate.

Whether prenatal care is adequate is determined by a somewhat complex method that takes into account how soon after conception care was initiated, as well as the number of prenatal visits the mother had in relation to the length of her pregnancy.

Generally, prenatal care is deemed adequate if the mother began receiving it in the first trimester, and had at least nine visits if her pregnancy lasted the full nine months.

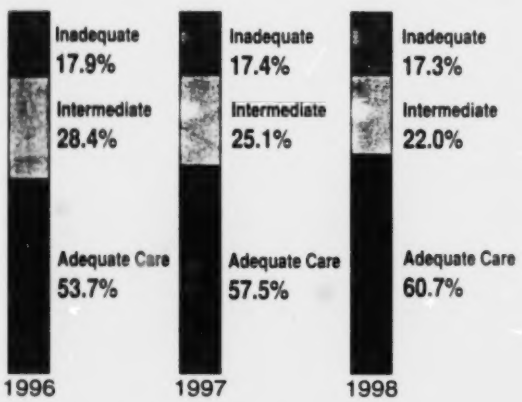
The adequacy of prenatal care in the District has improved steadily for six years. 1995 was the first year in which more than half of mothers received care that was judged adequate. The percentage that year was 51. By 1998 it had reached 60.7 percent.

The improvement is impressive, but in the same year, 74.3 percent of mothers in the United States as a whole had adequate prenatal care.

The percent of D.C. mothers receiving inadequate care, or no care at all, has declined steadily but only slightly, from 19.2 percent in 1995 to 17.3 percent in 1998. Unfortunately, this means that more than one mother in six still gets inadequate care during her pregnancy. Moreover, the rate of improvement has been slowing since 1995.

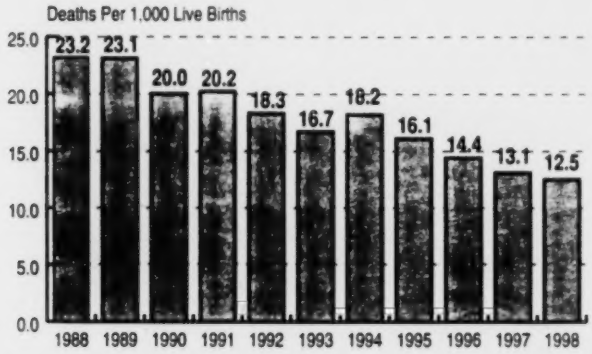
Another 22 percent of mothers receive care that is defined as "intermediate." The adequacy of care is one of the major factors affecting the rates of infant mortality and low birth weights *(Figure 15, page 18)*.

Figure 15 **ADEQUACY OF PRENATAL CARE FOR D.C. MOTHERS**
(PERCENT OF MOTHERS)
1996, 1997, and 1998



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Figure 16 **INFANT MORTALITY RATE (UNDER ONE YEAR)**
District of Columbia, 1988-1998



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

2. The city's infant mortality rate has decreased for the fourth consecutive year, and now stands at not much more than half the peak reached in 1988. But it remains nearly twice as high as the national level.

In 1998, 12.5 infants died before their first birthdays for every 1,000 born alive in the District of Columbia. That is 54 percent of the 1988 peak level of 23.2 per thousand. The next year, 1989, the rate was 23.1. Thereafter, it began a slow but erratic descent.

Since 1995, infant mortality has decreased with each succeeding year. Nonetheless, at 12.5, the city's rate is still nearly twice as high as the national level of 7.2 per thousand *(Figure 16, page 19).*

3. The percentage of babies born with abnormally low weights has declined for the second year in a row, reaching a level not previously achieved since 1986.

In 1998, 13.2 percent of babies were born abnormally small at weights below 5 1/2 pounds. Such low birth weights are a leading cause of deaths in infancy, and even these underweight infants who survive often face continuing health and developmental problems.

The 1998 level is the lowest in the District since 1986. Low birth weights peaked in 1989, with 16.1 percent of all babies weighing below 5 1/2 pounds at birth. Since then, the rate has trended downward in an irregular fashion, but the lowest it had reached until this year was 13.5 percent.

Further progress in maternal health and nutrition will be required to reach the 1986 level of 12.2, but the 1998 achievement gives hope that this reduction and more can be reached in the District. The D.C. rate is still 74 percent above the national level of 7.6 *(Figure 17, page 19).*

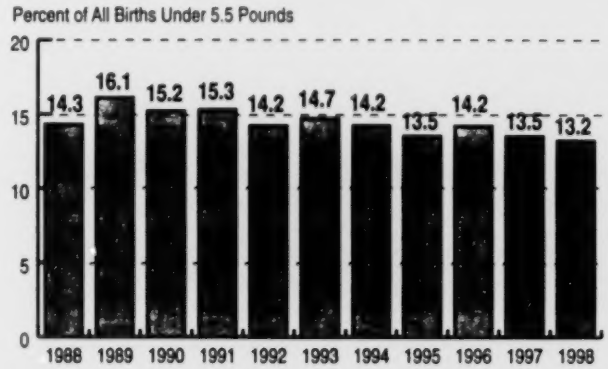
4. The number of AIDS cases among the District's children increased in 1998 for the second year.

The number of children 12 years of age and younger who had been diagnosed with AIDS increased to 168 at the end of 1998, from 157 at the end of 1997. This was an additional 11 cases or an increase of seven percent. (These figures are cumulative. They include all children ever diagnosed with the disease, among them those already deceased.)

Between 1996 and 1997 the number of known cases among children this young had grown from 144 to 157, or by 13 cases, a nine percent rate of increase. Hence the growth rate of AIDS among this age group of children has decreased somewhat, but the numbers are still climbing upward.

Most AIDS victims under 13 contracted the disease perinatally, mean-

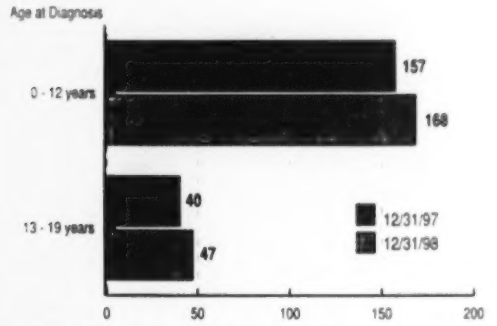
Figure 17 **PERCENT OF LOW BIRTHWEIGHT INFANTS**
District of Columbia, 1988-1998



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Figure 18

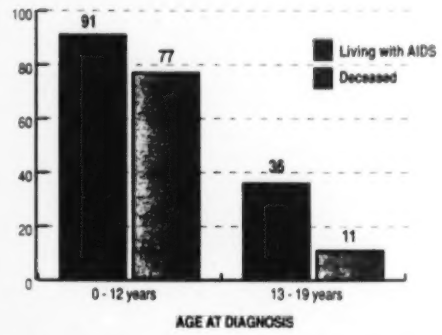
CHILDREN AND TEENS DIAGNOSED WITH AIDS BY AGE GROUP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1997 AND DECEMBER 31, 1998
District of Columbia



Source: Administration for HIV/AIDS, HIV/AIDS Surveillance and Epidemiology Division

Figure 19

CHILDREN AND TEENS DIAGNOSED WITH AIDS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1998 LIVING WITH AIDS AND DECEASED
District of Columbia



Source: Administration for HIV/AIDS, HIV/AIDS Surveillance and Epidemiology Division

ing that it was contracted from the mother at or before the time of birth.

Teenagers 13 through 19 years old who had been diagnosed with the disease increased in number from 40 to 47 between 1997 and 1998, a growth rate of nearly 18 percent. The preceding year's increase had been from 35 to 40, or 14 percent. Thus the rate of growth among this older age group is increasing slowly.

Of the 168 children aged 12 and under who had been diagnosed with AIDS through the end of 1998, 91 (54 percent) were living with the disease, while the remaining 77 (46 percent) had already died of AIDS or complications *(Figure 18, page 20).*

Of the 47 teens found to have AIDS, 36 (77 percent) were living with it while 11 (23 percent) had died.

National comparative data for children were unavailable, but the rate of deaths from AIDS at all ages in 1998 was nearly ten times greater in the District (47 per 100,000 people) than in the U.S. as a whole (4.9) *(Figure 19, page 20).*

5. The total number of cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) diagnosed among the District's children and youth decreased sharply in 1999.

During 1999, a total of 2,240 cases of the three most common STDs — chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis — were diagnosed in D.C. children and teens.

The District had 114,700 children and youth under age 20 in 1999, by the Census Bureau's estimate. About two percent of them were diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease in 1999.

The combined incidence of the three diseases among persons under 20 declined substantially between 1998 and 1999. The total number of cases dropped from 2,811 to 2,240, or by 20 percent. In 1998, there had also been a decrease, but it was only from 2,831 to 2,811 — a mere 20 cases or less than one percent.

All of the three diseases contributed to the most recent decrease. Chlamydia decreased from 1,480 to 1,228 cases (17 percent), gonorrhea from 1,305 to 1,007 (23 percent), and syphilis from 26 to 5 (81 percent) *(Figure 20, page 21).*

Chlamydia — which was almost unknown until a few years ago, and still is hardly a household word — is now the most common of these diseases in both the District and the nation, and has become the leading cause of sterility in American women. While syphilis is potentially the most serious, all three diseases can cause great harm if left untreated. All,

fortunately, are treatable if detected early enough.

Children and youth account for 45 percent of all cases of chlamydia in D.C., 29 percent of gonorrhea, and 7 percent of syphilis cases *(Figure 21, page 21)*.

6. The percentage of children between 19 and 35 months of age who have completed a standard immunization schedule increased in 1999 for the second straight year.

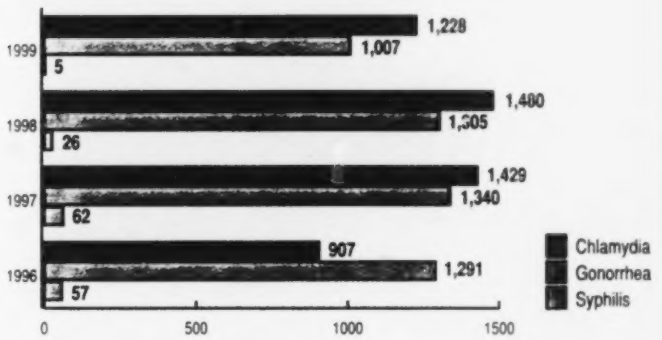
An important objective of the national "Healthy People 2010" plan is to increase and maintain a high level of vaccination coverage among two-year-olds (18 to 35 months). The target for 2010 is 90 percent coverage. Toward this end, free immunizations are available to all children regardless of income.

The District is now close to the national level in progress toward the goal. A standard series of immunizations protects against Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis or "DTP" (four immunizations); Polio (three immunizations); Measles (one); and Haemophilus influenza type b or "Hib" (three).

At the end of 1999, 78 percent of D.C. two-year-olds had received the complete series. This was up from 76 percent in 1998. In mid-1999, 79 percent of children in the U.S. had been similarly protected.

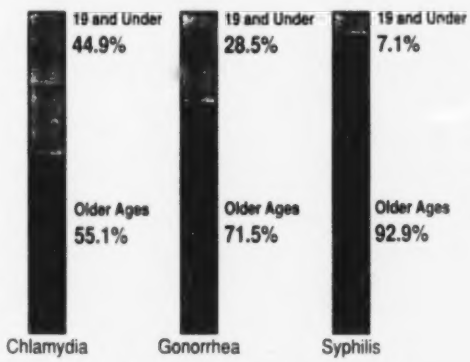
In addition, 91 percent of D.C. children had been immunized against Mumps and Rubella (chickenpox) through a single dose of "MMR" vaccine, which combines these with Measles. The national level in mid-1999 was 92 percent, and 86 percent had received three immunizations against Hepatitis b, compared to 88 percent nationally.

Figure 20 **CASES OF CHLAMYDIA, GONORRHEA AND SYPHILIS DIAGNOSED IN PERSONS UNDER AGE 20**
District of Columbia, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999



Source: D.C. Bureau of STD Control, Surveillance Unit

Figure 21 **PERCENT OF DIAGNOSED CASES OF CHLAMYDIA, GONORRHEA, AND SYPHILIS BY AGE GROUP**
District of Columbia, 1999



Source: D.C. Bureau of STD Control Surveillance Unit

HOW THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMPARES WITH THE NATION ON MAJOR VITAL STATISTICS AND HEALTH INDICATORS RELATING TO CHILDREN, 1998 AND 1999

Indicator	District of Columbia	United States
Percent of Births to Unmarried Mothers (1998)	62.9%	32.8%
Percent of Births to Teens (Under 20 Years) (1998)	15.3%	12.5%
Percent of Low Birthweight Live Births (1998)	13.2%	7.6%
Percent of Births with Adequate Prenatal Care (1998)	60.7%	74.3%
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) (1998)	12.5	7.2
Percent of All Two-Year-Olds Immunized Against Diptheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Measles, and Haemophilus influenza type b ("Hib") (1999)	78%	79%

Source: D.C. Department of Public Health, State Center for Health Statistics

F. SAFETY AND PERSONAL SECURITY

1. The number of deaths to children and teens decreased by nearly 17 percent in 1998.

In 1998, 185 of the District's children and teens died. This was a decline from 222 in 1997 — 37 fewer deaths, or 17 percent. It was the third decrease in as many years, and the largest in percentage terms. It followed a drop of 15 percent in 1997, which in turn followed a seven percent decline in 1996.

Most of the drop in 1998 was among those aged 15 through 19 — 28 of the 37 deaths. There was also a decrease of nine deaths among those ten to fourteen, and one of eight deaths among infants under one year. These last eight were offset, however, by increases of four deaths each among children in the one to four and five to nine age categories *(Figure 22, page 22)*.

Overall, these figures are good news after too many years of rising deaths among children and youth in the District. However, more years of improvement can and should follow.

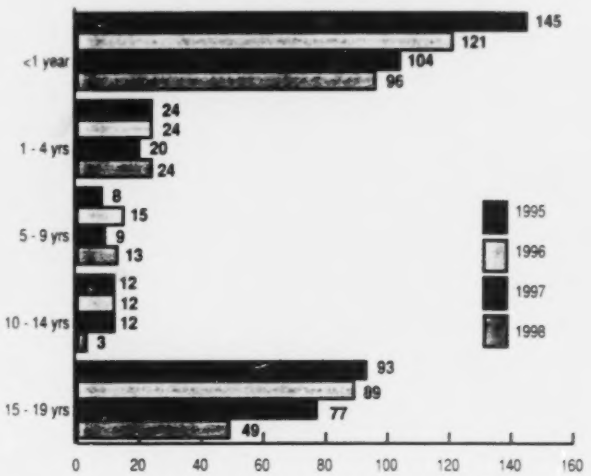
The continuing occurrence of so many fatalities to children is especially sobering since most of those in the District come from two causes: first, inadequate medical care and nutrition for both mother and child in the critical period from conception through the first year of life; and second, violence — mainly gun violence — in the teen years.

2. Violent deaths to teens age 15-19 have decreased for the fifth consecutive year.

In 1998, 46 teens aged 15 and older died violently in the District. This was a 26 percent drop from the 62 registered in 1997. It followed a drop of 21 percent from 1996 to 1997.

Figure 22

CHILD AND TEEN DEATHS BY AGE
District of Columbia, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Before that, there was a nine percent drop from 1995 to 1996, another drop of two percent from 1994 to 1995, and another of 17 percent from the all-time high of 106 violent deaths in 1993.

At this point, violent deaths are down by 57 percent from their peak, but 46 is still far too many. From 1982 through 1987 there were never more than 34 teen violent deaths, and in only one of those years did the number exceed 28 *(Figure 23, page 22)*.

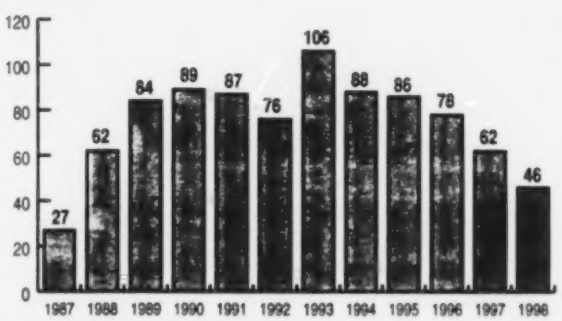
3. Murders of teens are down for the third year in a row.

In 1998, 33 D.C. teens aged 15 to 19 died as a result of homicide or legal intervention (i.e., death at the hands of police). This is the third consecutive decline, and represents a decrease of 45 teen murders or 58 percent since 1995.

At their peak in 1993, the one hundred 15-to-19-year-olds murdered represented 94 percent of all violent deaths to

Figure 23

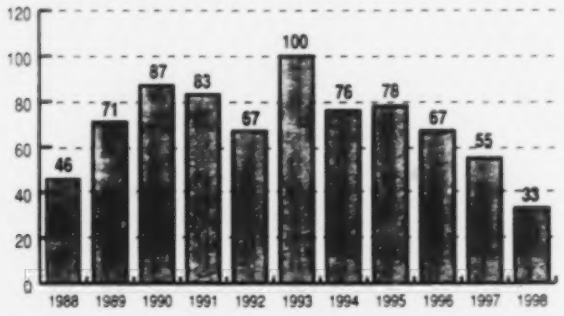
VIOLENT DEATHS TO TEENS AGES 15 - 19
District of Columbia, 1987 - 1998



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Figure 24

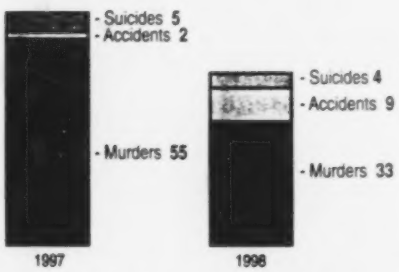
DEATHS TO TEENS AGES 15 TO 19 BY HOMICIDE AND LEGAL INTERVENTION
District of Columbia, 1988-1998



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Figure 25

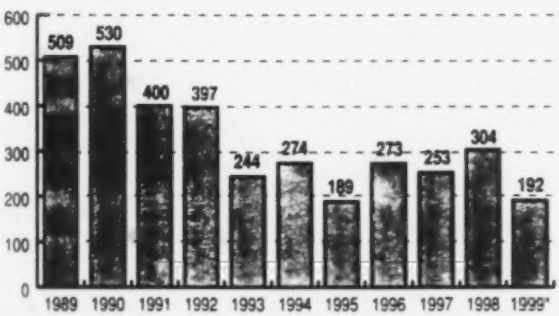
CAUSES OF VIOLENT DEATHS TO TEENS 15 TO 19 YEARS OLD
District of Columbia, 1997 and 1998



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Figure 26

CASES FILED FOR CHILD ABUSE
District of Columbia, 1989 - 1999*



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
* Data for 1999 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

that age group. The 33 murders this year are 72 percent of all violent deaths, which also include accidents (of which there were nine in 1998) and suicides (of which there were four).

The number of murders has now fallen below the 46 registered in 1988, which marked the outset of a period of dramatic and unprecedented increase in youth violence in the District *(Figures 24 & 25, page 23)*.

Hopefully, the downward trend will continue at least until the annual numbers, like the ages of the victims, are in the teens, which was the usual level prior to 1988. Unfortunately, given the widespread availability of guns, a dangerous threshold may already have been established.

4. Child abuse cases were down in 1999, but that does not necessarily represent a trend.

Child abuse cases filed with the D.C. Courts decreased in 1999 to 192 from 304 in 1998. That is a 37 percent drop. But 1999 is not the lowest in recent years, and there was an increase the year before.

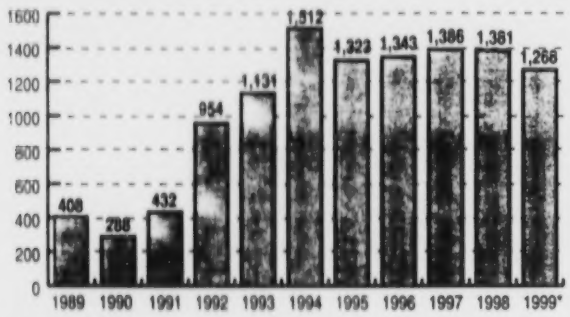
Child abuse filings have tended recently to fluctuate considerably from one year to the next, and since 1993 there has not been more than one downward spiral in a row.

Yet even with the rapid ups and downs, the abuse caseload has recently stayed well below the level of the late 1980s and early 1990s. In that period, there were two years in which the number of new cases topped 500, and two years in which it was around 400.

The 304 cases filed in 1998 represented the only year since 1992 when they exceeded 300. Perhaps this means that a new baseline level has been established. But there is as yet nothing to suggest that the number may continue to move further downward from here *(Figure 26, page 23)*.

Figure 27

CASES FILED FOR CHILD NEGLECT
District of Columbia, 1989 - 1999*



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
* Data for 1999 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

5. Cases of child neglect are down for the second year in a row, but here too there is as yet no clear evidence that a trend is underway.

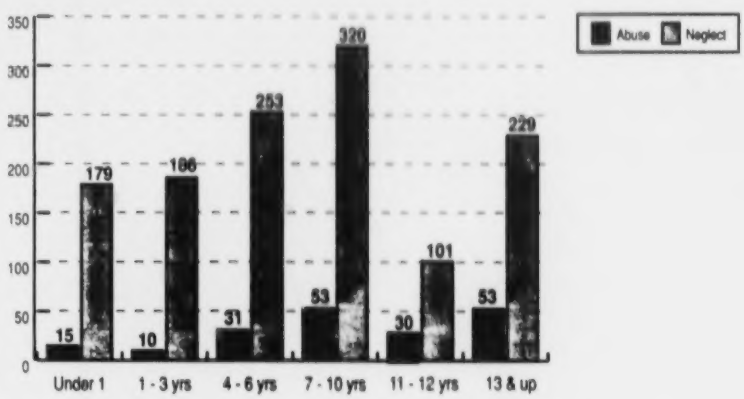
There were 1,268 cases filed for child neglect in the D.C. Courts in 1999. That is down by 113 or eight percent from 1998. In the previous year there was also a decrease, but only by five cases or a fraction of one percent.

Since 1994, when the number of neglect filings peaked at 1,512, the annual numbers have tended to fluctuate in a fairly narrow range around 1,300 and most of the moves have been upward.

While the recent numbers give reason to hope that a downward trend may be emerging, as yet there is no clear evidence of one. And the 1999 level of child neglect is nearly three times as high as in 1991, when there were only 432 cases *(Figure 27, page 24)*.

Figure 28

ABUSE AND NEGLECT REFERRALS BY AGE OF CHILD
D.C. Superior Court, 1999



Source: Unpublished Data, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

6. Infants under one year of age are the most common victims of child abuse and neglect.

In 1999, 179 cases were brought before the District of Columbia Courts alleging neglect of infants who had not yet reached their first birthday. In that same year, 15 cases were filed for abuse of infants under the age of one.

Most older age categories of children had larger total numbers, but all represented more than a single year of age. The 4-to-6-year category, for example, represented three years; the 7-to-10 year category covered four years.

Both of these categories had larger total numbers (31 abuse and 253 neglect cases for the three years of age from 4 to 6, and 53 abuse and 320 neglect cases for the four years from 7 to 10). However, when adjusted on a per-year-of-age basis, the incidences were smaller than for the under-one-year group.

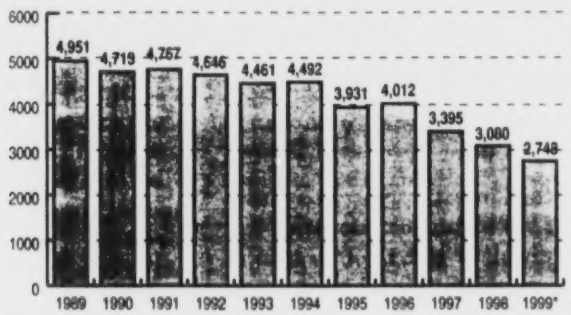
Only the 11-to-12-year category had proportionally as many abuse cases as the under-one-year group when the number of years involved was taken into account (15 for each year). Here too, however, there were considerably fewer neglect cases in the older group after adjustment.

Furthermore, 1999 is the only year since we have been publishing these statistics in which any older age group had proportionally as many abuse or neglect cases as infants under one year. *(Figure 28, page 24)*.

7. Juvenile cases referred to the D.C. Superior Court for all causes have declined for the fourth straight year to another record low.

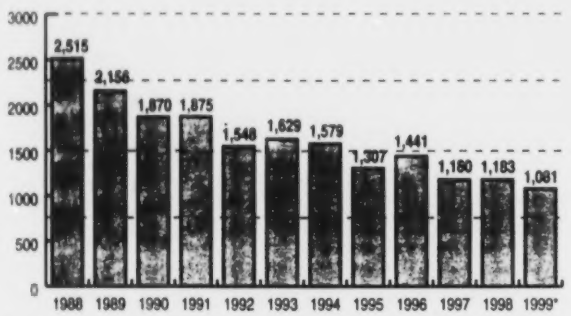
In 1999, a total of 2,748 new juvenile cases were sent to the D.C. Superior Court. This once again brought the number of such cases below any recorded since at least 1980, the earliest year for which D.C. KIDS COUNT has Court statistics.

Figure 29 **JUVENILE CASES REFERRED TO D.C. SUPERIOR COURT FOR ALL CAUSES, 1989-1999***



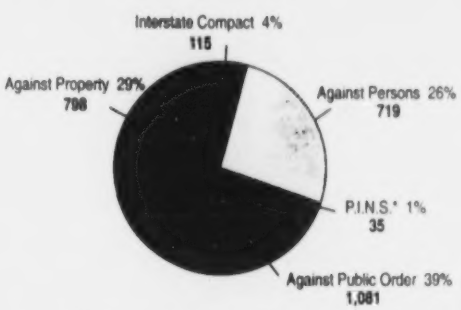
Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
*Data for 1999 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

Figure 30 **JUVENILE CASES REFERRED TO D.C. SUPERIOR COURT FOR ACTS AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER, 1988-1999***



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
*Data for 1999 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

Figure 31 **JUVENILE NEW REFERRALS BY TYPE OF ACT**
D.C. Superior Court, 1999



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Unpublished Data
*Persons in Need of Supervision

Juvenile cases topped the 5,000 level for only two years, 1987 and 1988. In the latter year they reached 5,456. In most other years before and through 1994, the number exceeded 4,400.

1995 was the first year in which new cases involving juveniles fell below the 4,000 mark, reaching 3,931, but the next year they rose again to 4,012. Then they began a steady descent that has continued. At this point the juvenile caseload is only half as large as at its 1988 peak, and 39 percent below the level of 1994 *(Figure 29, page 25).*

8. "Acts against public order" (mostly charges of possessing or selling drugs or weapons) remain the most common crime of which District youths are accused, and their share of the total has grown.

In the six years we have reported on D.C. youngsters' brushes with the law, "acts against public order" have always been the most common. However, as the total number of crimes of which they are accused has declined, the share that these offenses make up of that total has gradually increased.

In 1994, that share was 35 percent. By 1999, it had grown to 39 percent. In the same five years, the actual number of public order offenses fell from 1,579 to 1,081, or by 32 percent. The decrease in the last year alone was 102 or nine percent. *(Figure 30, page 25).*

Public order referrals peaked in 1988 with 2,515 cases. The 1999 total is only 43 percent of that number. For lower caseloads it is necessary to go back to the early 1980s, when for a couple of years there were fewer than 700.

Narcotics charges made up 56 percent of the 1999 total, and weapons charges another 30 percent. The remaining 14 percent of cases alleged miscellaneous other offenses.

The other most common categories of offenses are "acts against property" (29 percent of the 1999 total), and "acts against persons" (26 percent).

Those falling outside these categories are "interstate compact" cases, consisting of persons who are fugitives from justice in another jurisdiction (four percent), and "persons in need of supervision," juveniles who are out of parental control (one percent) *(Figure 31, page 25).*

9. Alleged juvenile crimes against persons have decreased sharply for the sixth straight year.

In 1999, 719 District juveniles were brought before the Courts for allegedly committing crimes against other persons. The most common of these offenses was assault, making up four out of five cases.

The second most common act against persons was robbery or attempted robbery, with 17 percent of the total. The great majority of robbery cases involved use of arms, force or violence. There were five homicides. No rapes were reported.

Again, the 1999 number was much lower than the year before — 19 percent lower. It was down by one-third from the 1997 total, and by 47 percent from the peak reached in 1993. The level is now lower than in any year since 1988, when it was 680. That, in turn, was the lowest by far since at least 1980, the earliest year for which we have statistics on juvenile offenses *(Figure 32, page 26).*

10. Property crime cases involving juveniles have declined to a new low level, not seen since at least 1980.

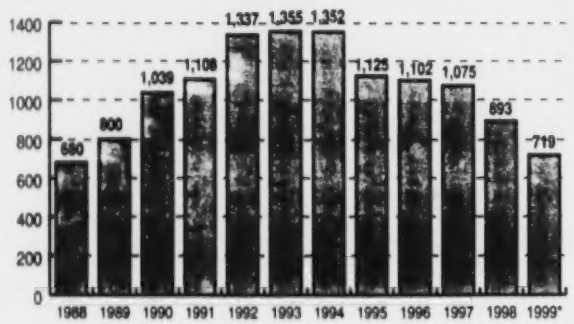
With 798 cases involving juveniles filed in 1999, alleged "acts against property" were down by eight percent since 1998 and 41 percent since 1996. Nearly three out of five such cases were auto thefts.

Most of the remaining acts against property were vandalism, break-ins, burglaries, and larcenies. Property crimes now make up 29 percent of all juvenile referrals to the D.C. Courts.

But in earlier decades youngsters were accused of many more such offenses, and they were a much larger share of the juvenile caseload. In 1980 there were 2,223 property crime cases brought against youths, and they were 47 percent of all new cases filed that year.

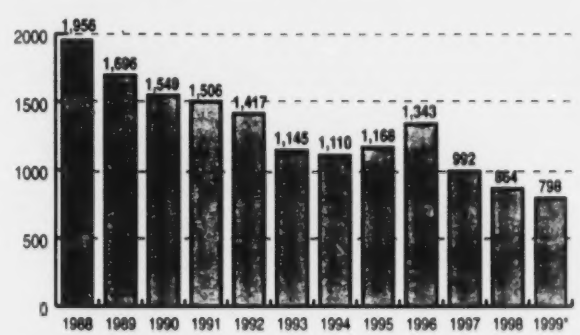
The smallest number of such cases filed during the 1980s was 1,696, and that was in 1989. The 1990s, in contrast, saw a generally declining trend in property offenses — broken only by a brief yet sharp upsurge in 1996 that was followed by a resumption of the decreases. *(Figure 33, page 26).*

Figure 32 **JUVENILE CASES REFERRED TO D.C. SUPERIOR COURT FOR OFFENSES AGAINST PERSONS, 1988-1999***



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
*Data for 1999 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

Figure 33 **JUVENILE CASES REFERRED TO D.C. SUPERIOR COURT FOR ACTS AGAINST PROPERTY, 1988 - 1999***



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
*Data for 1999 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

G. EDUCATION

1. D.C. Public Schools students have improved their SAT scores slightly, but still stand well below the national average.

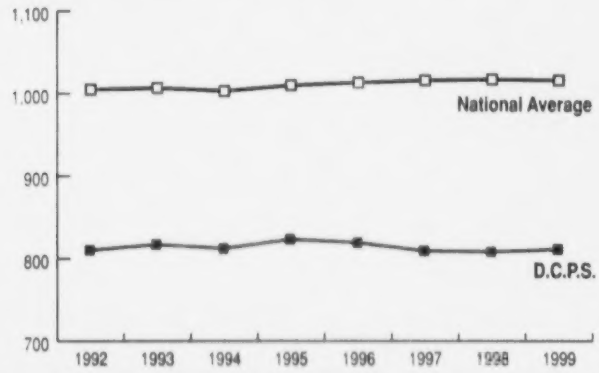
The average combined math and verbal SAT score for D.C.P.S. students increased from 810 in 1998 to 813 in 1999. This is only one point higher than in 1992, and well below the high of 825 achieved by District children in 1995. It is, however, the first improvement since 1995.

In the same year, the national average slipped one point to 1,016, the first drop since 1994. The changes at both levels barely affected the relative position of the local index, which continues to be one-fifth below the national level (*Figure 34, page 27).*

Figure 34

COMBINED MATH/VERBAL SCORES ON SAT

D.C. Public Schools vs. National Average, 1992 - 1999



D.C.P.S.	812	819	814	825	821	811	810	813
Nat'l Avg	1,005	1,007	1,003	1,010	1,013	1,016	1,017	1,016

Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools

2. In the Stanford 9 Achievement Tests for Reading, the percent of D.C. Public Schools students scoring at basic level or above improved in 2000 in nine of the eleven grades in which the test is given. But at the higher grade levels, their performance still dropped off sharply.

The Stanford 9 Tests have been given by the D.C. Schools since 1997. Since then, the test performance of District students has steadily improved. The tests show the percentages of students in every grade from 1st through 11th who perform at four different levels, from "below basic" to "advanced." The definitions of these categories are as follows:

Below Basic - little or no mastery of fundamental knowledge for this grade level;

Basic - partial mastery of the knowledge and skills that are fundamental for satisfactory work at this grade level;

Proficient - solid academic performance, indicating that students are prepared for this grade level;

Advanced - superior performance, beyond grade level mastery.

The tests are given in both reading and mathematics. The standard for promotion to the next grade is performance at basic proficiency or higher. The percentages with test scores at this level are shown in the charts for all the individual grades, and are discussed below.

In the reading test, District students scored best in first grade, with 88 percent reading at or above basic level in 1999. They did not do as well in any succeeding grade.

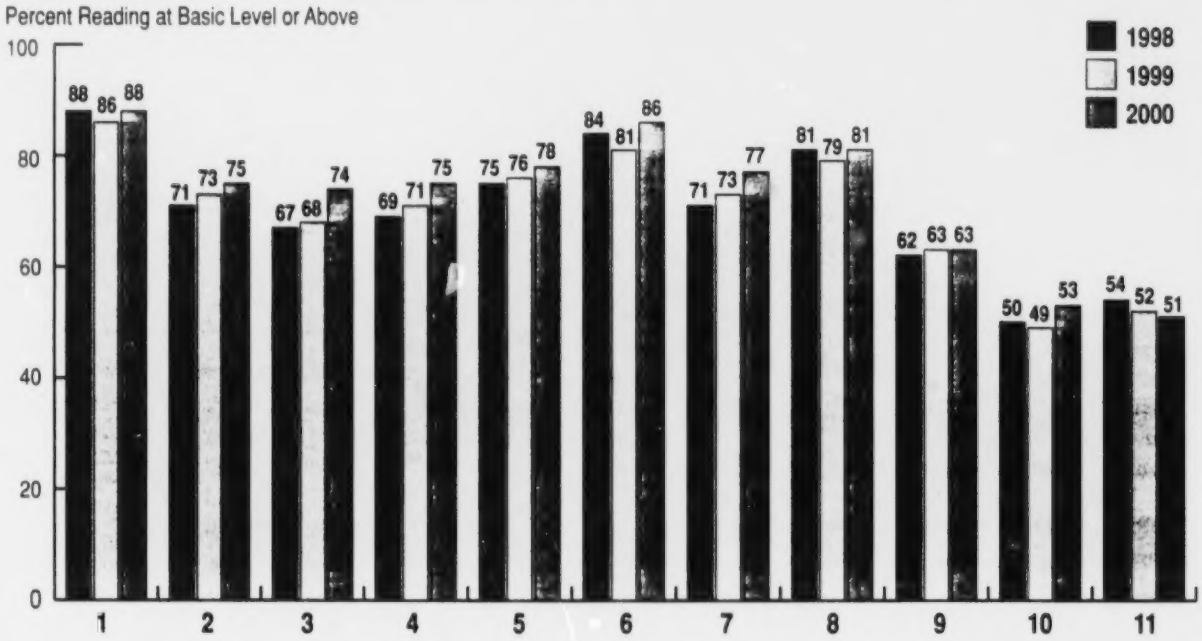
Test performance slipped considerably in second grade, with those scoring basic or above dropping to 75 percent. The percentage dropped slightly again in third grade, but then improved gradually in fourth and fifth grades and suddenly jumped in sixth. At that point 86 percent tested at basic level or above — almost but not quite as many as in the first grade. There was another drop in seventh grade, to 77 percent. Then the percentage once more improved, rising to 81 percent in eighth — substantially better, but still not close to the levels in either first or sixth.

But ninth grade performance once more declined dramatically, dropping to 63 percent. In 10th and 11th it deteriorated further, and by 11th grade only slightly over half of D.C. Public Schools students —51 percent — tested at or above basic proficiency, the standard for promotion.

Despite these disappointing grade-by-grade results, substantial progress has been registered since the tests have been given in the District. In the Year 2000 tests for reading, D.C.P.S. students improved their performance over 1999 at every grade level from first through eighth, as well as in 10th grade. The percentage scoring at or above basic held steady in ninth grade, and slipped by a point in 11th. The 1999 results had also been better than those of 1998 in six of the 11 grades. A notable exception was the

Figure 35

PERCENT OF STUDENTS PERFORMING AT BASIC PROFICIENCY LEVEL OR HIGHER
STANFORD 9 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS FOR READING
D.C. Public Schools, 1998, 1999, and 2000



Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools

11th grade, where the percentages declined slightly in both 1999 and 2000 *(Figure 35, page 28).*

3. "Basic" performance denotes only partial mastery of the requirements for the present grade. The percentages of students reading at "proficient" and "advanced" levels were typically half or below these amounts.

On the 2000 tests, when 88 percent of D.C. Public Schools' first graders tested at "basic or above" level, only 45 percent scored "proficient or advanced." This means at grade level or above.

Most other grades did not even do this well. In the 11th grade, where 51 percent scored "basic or above," only 12 percent were "proficient or advanced."

It is this grade level or above performance in reading, not merely partial mastery, that is necessary for success in college and in most skilled occupations.

The percentages with reading scores at the "proficient or advanced" level have also improved in some grades, but not in all. Further, where improvement has occurred, it has been slower and less consistent. And as with "basic and above," scores regressed in 11th grade.

4. In test scores on reading, D.C. students are now equal or close to the national levels for "basic and above" in most grades for which comparative data are available. However, in 10th and 11th grades their performance drops far below their peers in the nation as a whole.

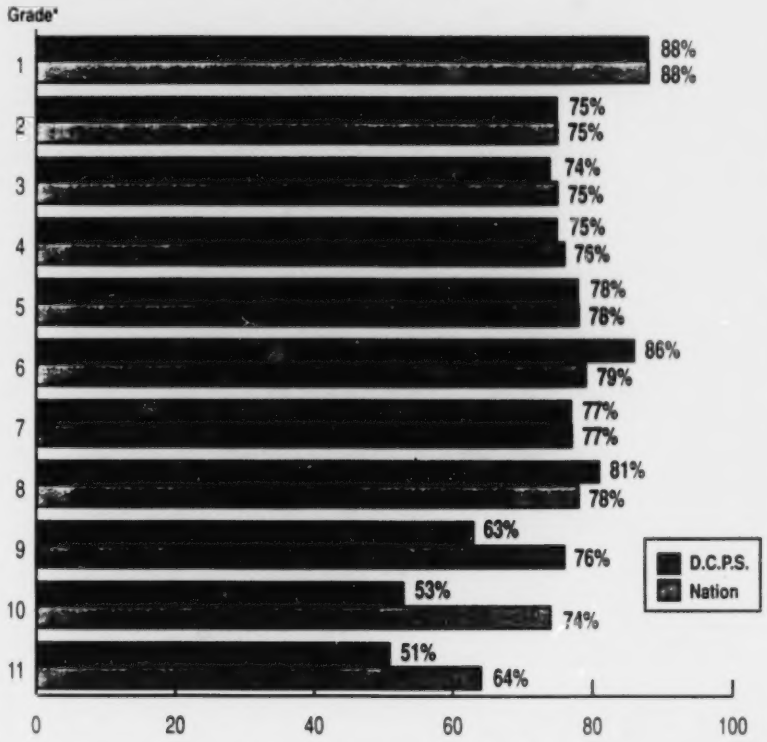
Yet despite continued shortcomings, elementary and middle level students in the D.C. Public Schools have greatly improved their test scores in reading relative to the national norms. The percent who test at or above basic level is now equal or close to the nation in first through fifth grades.

D.C. children test substantially better than national norms for reading in sixth grade (86 percent vs. 79 percent nationally), and slightly higher in eighth grade (81 percent vs. 78 percent) *(Figure 36, page 29).*

But D.C. Public Schools students' test performance deteriorates so sharply in higher grades that it falls short of the nation by 21 percentage points in 10th and 13 points in 11th. Thus, as the District's students approach graduation,

Figure 36

PERCENT OF STUDENTS READING AT BASIC PROFICIENCY LEVEL OR ABOVE
STANFORD 9 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS FOR READING
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS vs. THE NATION, 2000



Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for D.C. Public Schools

they are much less well prepared to compete in the world of work and college. Their continued low SAT scores reflect this fact *(Figure 34, page 27)*.

5. In mathematics, D.C. Public School students improved their scores in the year 2000 Stanford 9 Achievement Tests even more dramatically than in reading.

The percent of District students testing at the basic proficiency level or better in math improved in 2000 in ten of the eleven grades — one more than for reading. These increases were sometimes very substantial — as much as nine percentage points in third, fourth and seventh grades, and 11 points in sixth. No grade had a decline. The only one without an increase was 11th grade, in which the percentage held constant.

Despite these improvements, much further work remains to be done. As with reading, first grade had the highest percentage of students whose math performance scored at or above basic proficiency in the Year 2000 tests — 89 percent, virtually the same as for reading.

Again, however, there was a sharp drop-off in achievement in second grade, to 75 percent — the same percentage as for reading. In third grade, there was further improvement to 80 percent, followed again by decline.

The downward trend lasted for two grades, and by fifth grade only 62 percent were performing math at or above the basic level in the tests, compared to 78 percent for reading.

In sixth grade, as with reading, there was again an upturn. But in this case, it reached only 70 percent, not 86 percent. Then in seventh grade, math scores plummeted to the point where only 45 percent of students were doing well enough to meet the accepted standard for promotion to the next grade.

In none of the upper grades did as many as half the students perform at basic proficiency level or above. By 11th grade the percentage had dropped to only 25 — half as many as tested at the basic or above level in reading *(Figure 37, page 30)*.

6. D.C. students' math performance is well below the national average in three of the four grades for which comparative data are available.

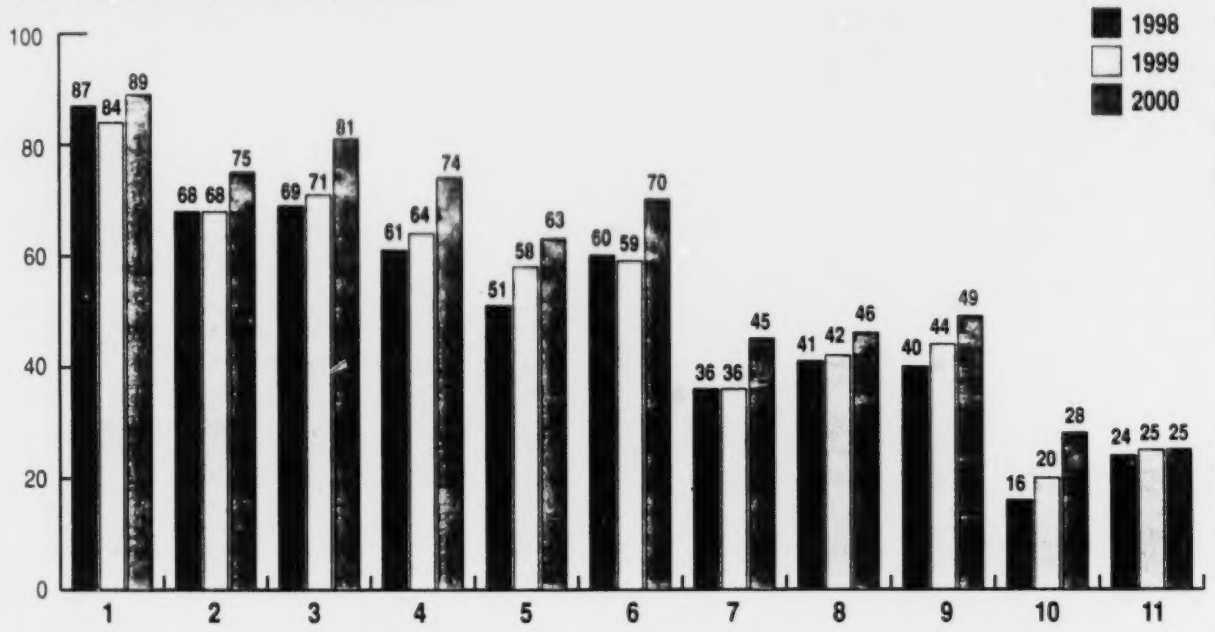
D.C. students start their school years significantly above the nation in math test achievement at the basic level and above — with 81 percent performing that well in third grade, compared to 75 percent nationally.

By the time they reach sixth grade, District youngsters are still ahead of their counterparts in the U.S. as a whole by 70 percent to 57 percent.

Unfortunately, this performance spurt does not last. Only 46 percent of D.C. eighth graders are scoring at the basic level or above, vs. 58 percent for the nation. And by 11th grade, only 28 percent are performing at this level compared to 39 percent nationally *(Figure 38, page 30)*.

Figure 37

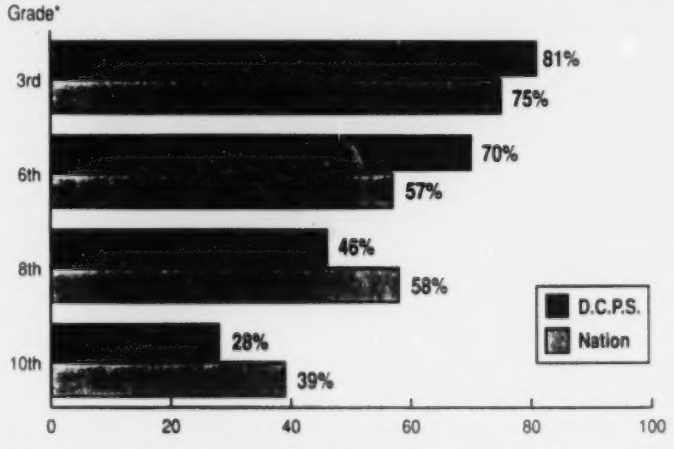
PERCENT OF STUDENTS PERFORMING AT BASIC PROFICIENCY LEVEL OR HIGHER
STANFORD 9 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS FOR MATHEMATICS
D.C. Public Schools, 1998, 1999, and 2000



Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools

Figure 38

PERCENT OF STUDENTS PERFORMING AT BASIC PROFICIENCY LEVEL OR HIGHER
STANFORD 9 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS FOR MATHEMATICS
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS vs. THE NATION, 2000



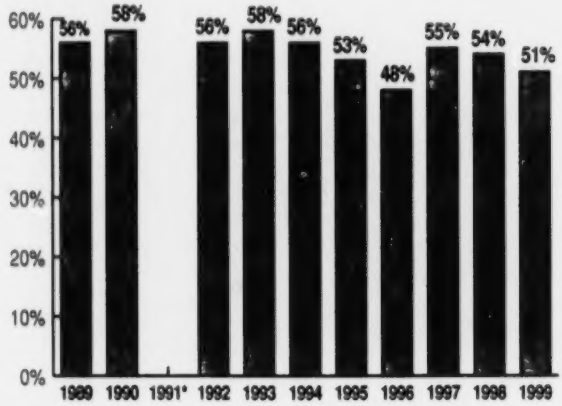
Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for D.C. Public Schools
* National averages provided only for Grades 3, 6, 8 and 10

7. Graduation rates for D.C. students are down.

In 1999, the graduation rate as reported by Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools decreased to 51 percent (in more precise terms, 50.5 percent), from 54 percent in 1998. Parents United's graduation rate figures are obtained by first calculating the percent of attrition from 9th or 10th grade enrollments to the number of graduates, then subtracting that percentage from 100.

Calculated in this manner, the graduation rate has been quite stable at a few points above 50 percent since 1984, with three exceptions: (1) 1991, when the necessary data to compute it were unavailable; (2) 1996, when it dropped below 50

Figure 39 **GRADUATION RATE FOR CLASSES OF 1989 to 1999**
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools
* Data unavailable for 1991

percent for the first and only time; and (3) 1999, when it declined to just above half at 50.5 percent *(Figure 39, page 31).*

The D.C. Public Schools have long experienced difficulties with data collection in regard to enrollment counts, and it is possible that these drops are not real, but are due to errors in the source data. It is also possible that the 1999 figure may reflect some transfers out to charter schools.

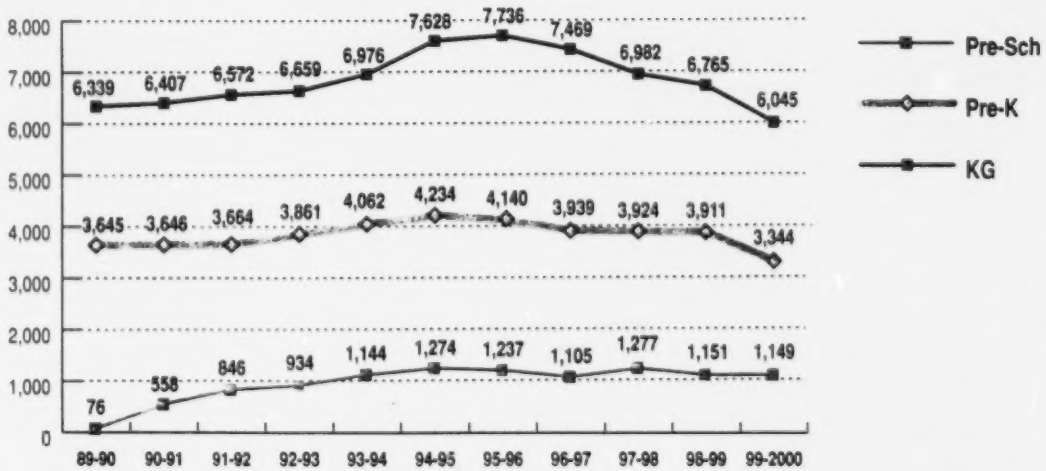
8. Enrollments in the District's Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten classes have decreased sharply, while Pre-School enrollments have remained about level.

Kindergarten enrollments in the D.C. Public Schools decreased from 6,765 in the 1998-99 school year to 6,045 in 1999-2000. These figures represent 720 fewer enrollees, almost an 11 percent drop. Pre-Kindergarten enrollments declined by 567, or more than 14 percent.

This is the fourth year in which Kindergarten enrollments have declined, and the rate has accelerated this year. Pre-Kindergarten rolls declined slightly in 1995-96 and 1996-97, then remained almost level at about 3,900 for three straight years, and this year they dropped suddenly and precipitously *(Figure 40, page 31).*

Both Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten are now well below any level of enrollment in the past decade. To what degree this results from the decline in

Figure 40 **ENROLLMENT IN KINDERGARTEN, PRE-KINDERGARTEN, AND PRE-SCHOOL CLASSES**
D.C. Public Schools, 1989-90 to 1999-2000 School Year



Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools

the child population, and how much it may reflect charter school enrollments, is not clear.

Pre-School, the District's full-day program of early childhood education and child care for four-year-olds, also saw its enrollment decline last year by about ten percent. This year, however, the pupil count leveled off. It is now about at the level of the 1993-94 school year.

9. Free and reduced price lunch eligibility in the D.C. Public Schools is down for a third year.

Last year, we reported that the statistics from the D.C. Public Schools on free and reduced price lunches represented the actual number of meals served daily. We have since been informed that they represent the number of pupils who have requested these meals and have been certified as eligible to receive them.

We have therefore changed the chart accordingly. The meals actually served will vary from these numbers. The 1998-99 number has also been revised downward.

Free and reduced price lunch eligibility-peaked in 1996-97 at 54,667. This is the third consecutive year of decline. It brings the total number of students eligible to receive this benefit to 42,707, a 22 percent decrease from the peak level. During the same period, the official public school enrollment declined by 11 percent.

Subsidized lunches represents 63 percent of the overall enrollment in the D.C. Public Schools. It decreases at higher class levels, from 69 percent in elementary school to 59 percent in middle school and junior high, to 46 percent in high school *(Figure 41, page 32).*

Figure 41

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCHES IN D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Years 1991-92 to 1999-2000

Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for D.C. Public Schools

H. YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR

While many of the problems confronting the District's kids are the result of factors beyond their control, their inability to avoid negative influences has had unfortunate consequences. We do not expect children and teens to exercise the kind of judgment and self-control we ask of adults. Still, the data in this section may come as a shock to many readers.

These facts have been developed by the 1999 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, conducted under the auspices of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The nationwide effort combined a national survey with 41 state surveys, four territorial surveys, and 17 local surveys. The subjects were students in grades 9 to 12. All surveys were school-based. Procedures were designed to protect students' privacy, and allowed for anonymous and voluntary participation.

The District of Columbia was a participant. In the accompanying table, we compare the results for the District with those for the nation as a whole on a number of key questions.

The questions focused particularly on types of behaviors that could lead to illness, injury or death. They included physical violence, substance abuse, tobacco use, sexual intercourse (including forced sex and unprotected sex), attempted suicide, failure to wear seat belts or helmets when driving or cycling, and driving after drinking.

The D.C. students reported higher incidences of most of these risky behaviors than their counterparts nationally. This is not surprising in view of the fact that the District is a large central city. The D.C. responses were generally on a par with, and sometimes less risk-laden than those of other big cities.

Interestingly, fewer D.C. students reported most kinds of substance abuse than those nationally.

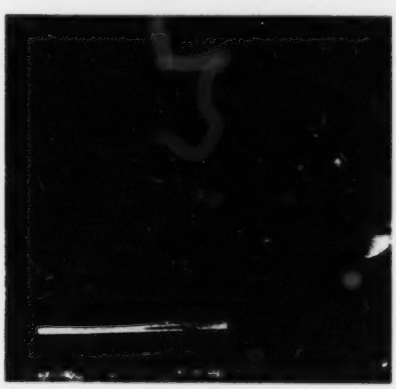
Nonetheless, the D.C. responses revealed much for parents and others concerned with these youngsters' well-being to worry about. More than one in three had been in a physical fight within the last 12 months. One in five had carried a weapon.

Nearly one-fifth of D.C. students had felt too unsafe to go to school in the past 30 days. This was nearly four times the national percentage, and a higher rate than any other city participating in the study.

One student in five had experienced sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13, and nearly two-thirds had had sex at some time in their lives. One in nine reported they were forced to have sex. Three in ten had had four or more sexual partners.

Nearly three-fourths of District youngsters said a condom had been used on the last occasion. This was considerably higher than the national percentage of 58, but it still left one chance in four of being exposed to the risk of pregnancy or disease.

More than six D.C. youths in ten had tried cigarettes, alcohol, or both. Nearly half had tried marijuana. One in four had been offered, sold or given an illegal drug.



Findings of Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, 1999
For the District of Columbia and the Nation

	Percent Reporting Behavior: In the District	In the Nation
Violence While on School Property		
During the 12 months prior to the survey:		
Were threatened with or injured by a weapon	13.4%	7.7%
Engaged in a physical fight	18.2%	14.2%
During the 30 days prior to the survey:		
Carried a weapon	8.9%	6.9%
Felt too unsafe to go to school	19.4%	5.2%
Other Violence		
During the 12 months prior to the survey:		
Were in a physical fight	36.9%	35.7%
Were injured in a fight	6.8%	4.0%
Seriously considered suicide	13.5%	19.3%
Attempted suicide	6.9%	8.3%
During the 30 days prior to the survey:		
Carried a weapon	20.8%	17.3%
Carried a gun	6.7%	4.9%
At some time in their lives:		
Were forced to have sexual intercourse	10.9%	8.8%
Vehicular Safety		
Rarely or never wore seat belts when someone else was driving	10.4%	16.4%
During the 12 months prior to the survey:		
Rarely or never wore a helmet when on a motorcycle	5.7%	38.0%
Rarely or never wore a helmet when on a bicycle	86.9%	85.3%
During the 30 days prior to the survey		
Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol	31.4%	33.1%
Drove after drinking alcohol	7.6%	13.1%
Substance Use and Abuse		
At some time in their lives:		
Had tried cigarettes	62.9%	70.4%
Had drunk alcohol	66.5%	81.0%
Had tried marijuana	45.1%	47.2%
Had tried cocaine	2.8%	9.5%
Had sniffed glue or other toxin	6.1%	14.6%
Before age 13:		
Smoked a whole cigarette	18.0%	24.7%
Drank more than a few sips of alcohol	27.9%	32.2%
Tried marijuana	12.3%	11.3%
During the 30 days prior to the survey:		
Smoked cigarettes	19.9%	34.8%
Purchased own cigarettes at a store or gas station (percent of those who smoked in past 30 days)	34.9%	23.5%
Drank alcohol	36.7%	50.0%
Had at least five drinks on one or more occasions	14.9%	31.5%
On school property:		
Smoked cigarettes in past 30 days	10.6%	14.0%
Drank alcohol in past 30 days	6.1%	4.9%
Used marijuana in past 30 days	9.6%	7.2%
Were offered, sold or given an illegal drug	24.6%	30.2%
Sexual Behavior		
Had sexual intercourse at some time in their lives	64.8%	49.9%
Had four or more sexual partners in lifetime	29.5%	16.2%
First had sex before age 13	20.3%	8.3%
Had sex during 3 months prior to survey	47.8%	36.3%
Condom used on last occasion	74.2%	58.0%
Birth control pill used before last occasion	9.0%	16.2%
Had been pregnant or gotten someone else pregnant	13.7%	6.3%
Were taught about HIV/AIDS in school	88.9%	90.6%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States, 1999. In: *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, CDC Surveillance Summaries, June 9, 2000. MMWR 2000;49 (No. SS-5).

Comparing the Wards

In this section, we compare the District's eight wards with the city as a whole and with other wards on various measures of child well-being. The indicators shown here are the only ones for which we could obtain data at the ward level.

This year's report presents an increased number of health indicators. It is also the first to present ward-level data on children receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, which has replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children), as well as those receiving food stamps.

There are two tables plus a map. The map shows the locations of each of the eight wards. The first table presents statistics on each indicator — both numbers of children affected and rates, usually in terms of percentages — for the city as a whole and for each ward.

This first table is a bit complicated. The first three rows are general demographic indicators (estimated population, children under 18, and live births). The rest are indicators of children's health and of those receiving welfare.

To compare the health indicator data, please note the following. The second of these, births to teen mothers, has three rows showing:

- First, the total number of births to teens under age 20 (1,172 in the entire city and 148 in Ward 1);
- Second, the percentage of all live births in the city or ward that were to teens (15.3 percent of live births in the city were to teens, as were 13.3 percent of those in Ward 1); and
- Third, the percent of all teen births in the city or ward that occurred in that location (100 percent of them occurred in the city as a whole, of course, and 12.6 percent of them occurred in Ward 1).

The second table shows how each ward ranks among the eight on most of the same indicators. In all but one case, the larger the number, the higher the rank.

For example, the ward with the smallest number of births to teens receives a rank of 1 or best. The ward with the largest number ranks 8th or worst.

The sole exception to this rule is the percent of births with which there was adequate prenatal care. In this case, the higher the percentage, the better the situation and the lower the rank. Ward 3, where 79 percent of newborns received adequate prenatal care, ranks 1st. Ward 8, where only 51.7 percent of babies born were adequately cared for, ranks 8th.

If two wards are tied, each receives the same rank, which is halfway between the ranks the two would have received if there had not been a tie. For example, Wards 1 and 5 are tied for fifth place on births to single mothers. As a result, both receive a rank of 5.5.

The bottom row of the table shows the combined rank of each ward on all the indicators shown. Ward 8 receives a combined rank of eight, reflecting the fact that it ranks eighth on seven of the eight indicators. Ward 1 ranks fourth on the combined indicators because most of its indicators are in the middle range — with the exception of deaths to children and youth, in which it is ranked first or lowest, and teen murders, on which is the second lowest.

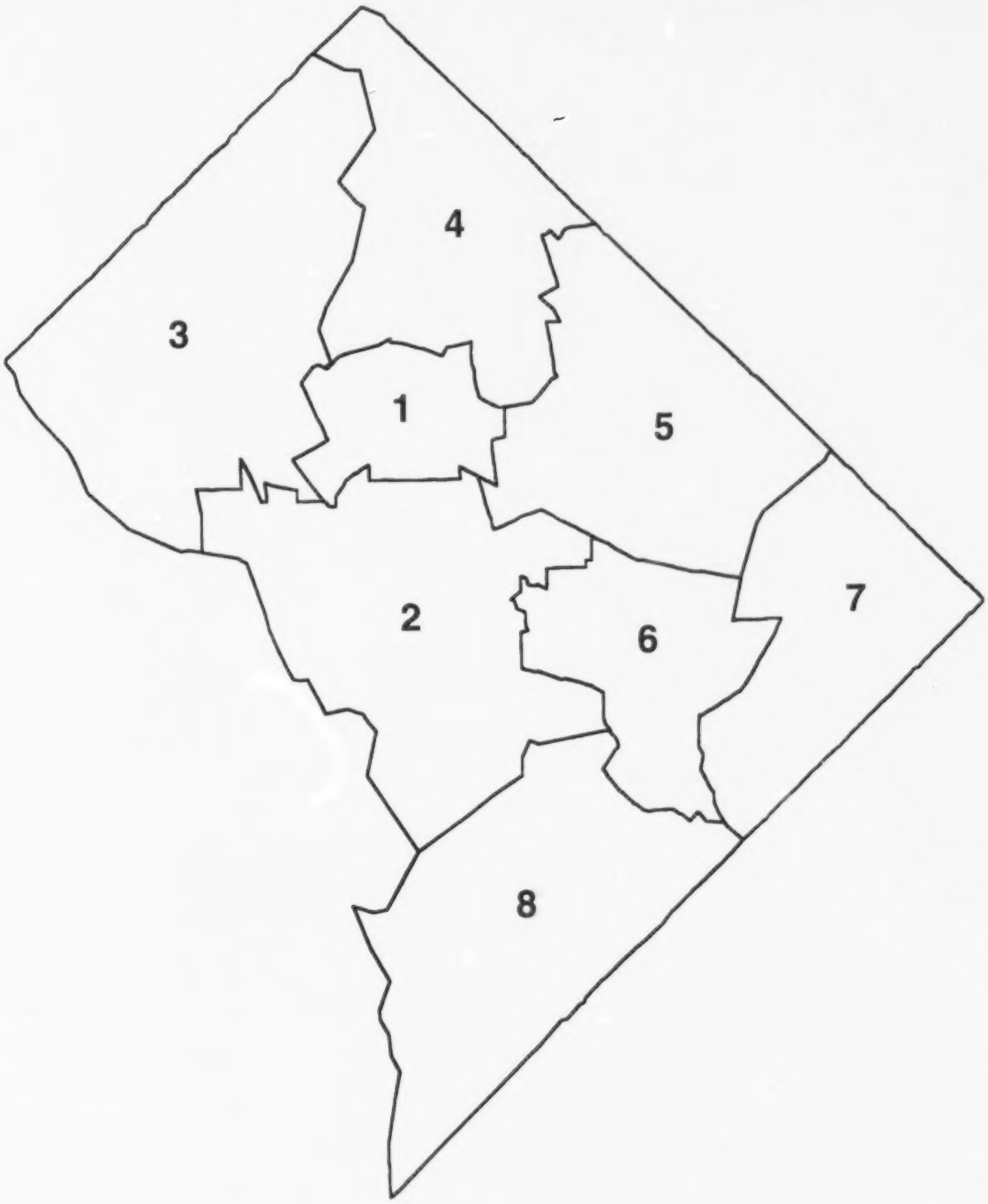
How the Wards Rank on Indicators of Child Well-Being

District of Columbia, 1998

Indicator	Ward 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Births to Single Mothers	5.5	2	1	4	5.5	3	7	8
Births to Teens (Under Age 20)	5	2	1	3.5	6	3.5	7	8
Percent of Births with Adequate Prenatal Care	4	5	1	2	3	6	7	8
Low Birthweight Babies (Under 5.5 Pounds)	3	2	1	5	7	4	6	8
Infant Deaths (Under 1 Year)	4.5	4.5	1	3	8	2	7	6
Deaths to Children & Youth (1-19 years)	1	3	2	5	6	4	7	8
Deaths to Teens	1.5	3	1.5	4.5	6	4.5	7.5	7.5
Teen Murders	2	4	1	3	6.5	5	6.5	8
Children Receiving TANF*	4	3	1	2	5	6	7	8
Children Receiving Food Stamps	4	3	1	2	5	6	7	8
Combined Rank	**4**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**6**	**5**	**7**	**8**

* Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, which has replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)
Sources: Health Indicators – D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics
TANF Data – D.C. Department of Human Services, Income Maintenance Administration

Locations of Wards
in the District of Columbia



Comparing the Wards on Indicators of Child Health and Welfare

District of Columbia, 1998 and 2000

Indicator	District of Columbia	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8
Estimated 1998 Population	521,400	69,700	69,400	68,800	65,900	63,000	61,100	62,800	60,700
Est. 1998 Children Under 18	98,800	13,500	7,400	8,300	11,500	12,700	10,500	15,500	19,400
% of Pop. that is Under 18	18.9	19.4	10.7	12.0	17.4	20.1	17.1	24.7	31.9
% of City's Child Population	100.0	13.7	7.5	8.4	11.6	12.9	10.6	15.7	19.6
Babies Born Alive	7,678	1,112	756	792	943	878	828	980	1,383
% of Live Births in City	100.0	14.5	9.8	10.3	12.3	11.4	10.8	12.8	18.0
Health Indicators (1998)									
Births to Single Mothers	4,829	642	424	44	583	642	560	786	1,146
% of Live Births	62.9	57.7	56.1	5.6	61.8	73.1	67.6	80.2	82.9
% of Births to Singles in City	100.0	13.3	8.8	0.9	12.1	13.3	11.6	16.3	23.7
Births to Teen Mothers (Under 20)	1,172	148	93	4	139	171	139	196	281
% of Live Births	15.3	13.3	12.3	0.5	14.7	19.5	16.8	20.0	20.3
% Of Teen Births in City	100.0	12.6	7.9	0.3	11.9	14.6	11.9	16.7	24.0
Percent of Births with Adequate Prenatal Care	60.7	61.6	61.3	79.2	65.4	63.7	58.3	52.4	51.7
Low Birthweight Babies (Under 5.5 Pounds)	1,017	98	92	45	128	166	118	157	211
% of All Live Births	13.2	8.8	12.2	5.7	13.6	18.9	14.3	16.0	15.3
% of Low Birthwts in City	100.0	9.6	9.0	4.4	12.6	16.3	11.6	15.4	20.7
Infant Deaths (Under 1 Year)	96	11	11	2	10	22	7	17	16
Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	12.5	9.9	14.6	2.5	10.6	25.1	8.5	17.3	11.6
% of Infant Deaths in City	100.0	11.5	11.5	2.1	10.4	22.9	7.3	17.7	16.7
Deaths to Children & Youth (1-19 years)	89	2	6	5	14	15	9	16	22
% of Child Deaths in City	100.0	2.2	6.7	5.6	15.7	16.9	10.1	18.0	24.7
Deaths to Teens (13-19 Years)	51	1	3	1	7	8	7	12	12
% of Teen Deaths in City	100.0	2.0	5.9	2.0	13.7	15.7	13.7	23.5	23.5
Teen Murders	33	1	3	0	2	6	4	6	11
% of Teen Murders in City	100.0	3.0	9.1	0.0	6.1	18.2	12.1	18.2	33.3
Welfare Indicators (May 2000)									
Children Receiving TANF*	33,612	3,085	2,958	25	2,512	4,242	4,469	6,451	9,870
% of Child Recipients in City	100.0	9.2	8.8	0.1	7.5	12.6	13.3	19.2	29.4
Children Receiving Food Stamps	40,865	3,878	3,738	44	2,893	4,859	5,398	8,077	11,978
% of Child Recipients in City	100.0	9.5	9.1	0.1	7.1	11.9	13.2	19.8	29.3

* Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

Sources: Population Estimates - D.C. Office of Planning, adjusted by D.C. Kids Count to re-benchmarked Census Bureau estimates
Health Indicators - D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics
Welfare Indicators - D.C. Department of Human Services, Income Maintenance Administration

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CHILDREN AND YOUTH
A PREVENTION MESSAGE

The well-being of children in the District of Columbia continues to be one of the city's greatest challenges. Community leaders have identified juvenile violence and substance abuse as priority concerns. Child abuse, substance abuse, and juvenile violence, and domestic violence are closely linked. Domestic violence occurs when a family member uses violence or the threat of violence to control and dominate another family member.

According to "You're Hurting Me Too" an instructional video distributed by Intermedia, Inc., national data showed that children who grow up in violent households are 1,500 times more likely of being abused, 6 times more likely to commit suicide, 60 times more likely to become involved in delinquent behavior as adults, 24 times more likely to be sexually assaulted, and 1,000 times more likely to be abusive to their partners as adults.

The same source states that seventy percent of serious injuries and 80% of fatal injuries to children are extensions of partner battering (domestic violence). These same children are at higher risk of alcohol and substance abuse, poor school adjustment, depression, sleep disorders, and other ills. In the District of Columbia, two programs that are supported by the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness specifically to aid families made homeless by domestic violence served 85 families with 180 children in 1999. However, the total number of D.C. families whose homelessness resulted ultimately from domestic violence while not recorded in statistics, is believed to be much larger.

To eliminate, reduce, and/or prevent child abuse, family members must reconsider the use of violence for problem solving, must teach children positive non-violent ways of relating to others, and show them how to de-escalate tense situations before they erupt into violence. While abuse of children is usually viewed along physical and sexual lines, *Charts A and B, page 38*, which were provided by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program, depict additional ways in which children are neglected or abused. These include using adult privilege, threats, intimidation, using institutions, isolation, emotional abuse, and economic abuse. To grow into healthy well-adjusted adults, children require time, affection, encouragement, respect, emotional security, positive discipline, and physical security.

Based on the above findings and the data in this book, there is a clear indication that as a community, the District must provide more support to strengthen families. There is a compelling need for domestic violence advocates, children advocates, and other services providers to collaborate to make all homes safe - for children and adults.

VIOLENCE
COMMITTING INCEST
SEXUAL TOUCHING KISSING
SEXUALIZING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR
VIOLENCE
CHOKING
TRISTING ARMS
ABUSE OF CHILDREN
INTIMIDATION
Instilling fear through looks, actions, gestures, property destruction • Using adult size • Yelling • Being violent to other parent, pets, etc.
USING INSTITUTIONS
Threatening punishment with/by God, courts, police, school, juvenile detention, foster homes, relatives, psych wards.
ISOLATION
Controlling access to peers/ adults, siblings, other parent, grandparents.
USING ADULT PRIVILEGE
Treating children as servants • Punishing, bossing, always winning • Denying input in visitation and custody decisions • Interrupting
EMOTIONAL ABUSE
Put downs, name calling • Using children as confidants • Using children to get or give information to other parent • Being inconsistent • Shaming children.
THREATS
Threatening abandonment, suicide, physical harm, confinement, or harm to other loved ones.
ECONOMIC ABUSE
Withholding basic needs, using money to control behavior • Squandering family money • Withholding child support • Using children as an economic bargaining chip in divorce.

Chart A

LOVE AND CARE FOR YOUR CHILDREN
LOVE AND CARE FOR YOUR CHILDREN
NURTURING CHILDREN
TRUST AND RESPECT
Acknowledge children's right to have own feelings, friends, activities and opinions • Promote independence • Allow for privacy • Respect feelings for other parent • Believe your children.
PROMOTE EMOTIONAL SECURITY
Talk and act so that children feel safe and comfortable expressing themselves • Be gentle • Be dependable.
CARE FOR YOURSELF
Give yourself personal time • Keep yourself healthy • Maintain friendships • Accept love.
PROVIDE PHYSICAL SECURITY
Provide food, shelter, clothing • Teach personal hygiene and nutrition • Monitor safety • Maintain a family routine • attend to wounds.
GIVE AFFECTION
Express verbal and physical affection • Be affectionate when your children are physically or emotionally hurt.
PROVIDE DISCIPLINE
Be consistent • Ensure rules are appropriate to age and development of child • Be clear about limits and expectations • Use discipline to give instruction, not punish.
ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT
Be affirming • Encourage children to follow their interest • Let children disagree with you • Recognize improvement • Teach new skills • Let them make mistakes.
GIVE TIME
Participate in your children's lives: activities, school, sports, special events and days, celebrations, friends • Include your children in your activities • Reveal who you are to your children.

Chart B

Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
202 East Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
218-722-2781

D.C. KIDS COUNT STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A multi-faceted approach is necessary to ensure that the District of Columbia provides the strong foundation needed to uplift all of its citizens. To reverse negative trends and to ensure favorable outcomes, everyone in the community must be actively involved and embrace an ethic of caring for our children and families. Substantial energy and resources must be dedicated to prevention programs and initiatives. Through partnerships developed through a system of shared values, a strong vision and focus toward the future, we can implement positive change and eliminate the disadvantages confronting our children and families. The future of D.C. will rest upon our commitment to that end. Our legacy begins now...

What Parents and Caregivers Can Do!

- Advocate for and support activities and/or services that enhance the quality of life for children and the family unit.
- Develop a support network for your family.
- Build relationships based on mutual respect and democratic principles.
- Be actively involved in your children's lives.
- Spend quality time together.
- Provide mutual support to each other.
- Acknowledge, understand and be patient as you learn to adjust to the behaviors and needs of your children at different ages.
- Provide appropriate supervision and discipline.
- Develop and practice constructive and non-violent ways of handling conflict.
- Child proof your homes to ensure they are safe for children.
- Seek out social and emotional help when needed.
- Join a parent support group.

What Every D.C. Resident Can Do!

- Communicate high expectations and be a role model for achievement and ethical behavior.
- Model and practice non-violent conflict resolution in your homes and communities.
- Get Involved. Create opportunities for yourself and other adults to have ongoing mutually beneficial, interactions with children/youth.
- Familiarize yourself with the developmental needs and behaviors of children and youth at various ages and stages, and consider them as you interact with and make decisions that impact them.
- Provide support in your neighborhood to child and youth service organizations striving to make a positive difference in your community.
- Work with your neighbors to ensure a safe and clean neighborhood for everyone.
- Unite your voices. Inform your legislators and governmental entities of your community's needs.
- Donate time and resources to your local schools and mentoring programs.
- Encourage an appreciation of diversity in your community to ensure that your neighborhood is a cohesive and caring unit for all of its families.

What Religious and Faith Based Institutions Can Do!

- Serve as a beacon of spiritual guidance, support, comfort, and leadership to neighborhood residents.
- Collaborate with other community based organizations to communicate the availability of support systems.
- Encourage positive communication with parents, children and youth.
- Implement extracurricular activities for children and youth so that they will have constructive alternatives to risky behaviors.
- Provide parenting and training opportunities for parents.
- Promote positive interaction among all members in the family unit.
- Serve as a resource to families in distress and/or in need of emergency support.

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- Develop and implement cross cutting ministries and activities to stimulate involvement of members in the community.
- Incorporate programs that encourage children and youth to interact with seniors and other adults on a regular basis.
- Build opportunities for community members to communicate and share ideas among each other.
- Provide support/resources for homeless residents in the community.

What Health Providers and Institutions Can Do!

- Ensure that every child has access to the necessary preventative health and dental services needed for healthy growth and development.
- Partner with other health providers to assure a full array of comprehensive services in all wards of the city.
- Provide educational training and support to parents around critical health care issues. Be inclusive and make allowances for the cultural and diverse needs of our city residents.
- Collaborate with schools, universities and other organizations to develop partnerships for informational exchanges that would benefit children and families.
- Establish interesting health education activities to ensure that children and youth adopt healthy lifestyles through adulthood.
- Build the trust of families by responding to their needs and serving as a preventative resource.
- Provide mental health education and treatment to address the mental and emotional needs of all residents.
- Sponsor public awareness campaigns to emphasize positive health habits.

What Schools in the District Can Do!

- Provide opportunities for all students to succeed.
- Engage families in the educational process in a respectful, collaborative manner.
- Collaborate with community groups to enhance curriculums and provide activities for children during the evenings and weekends.
- Develop incentive programs, as well as before and after school programs.
- Set high expectations for children and provide support and opportunities for achievement.
- Maintain a safe, orderly and nurturing school environment.
- Allow teachers and principals to be creative in developing and implementing innovative teaching strategies and curricula.
- Provide adequate support and resources to teachers and staff.
- Respond to children's emotional, intellectual, social and material needs, as well as their academic needs.
- Provide individual assistance for children who are having difficulty with their educational curriculum.
- Build partnerships with other organizations to provide mentoring and experiential learning opportunities for children and youth.

What Community Groups Can Do!

- Provide comprehensive pre-school, compensatory programs (e.g., Head Start), and before and after school programs.
- Develop and implement additional prevention programs and activities based on the feedback and needs of families in the community.
- Incorporate fatherhood programs in community activities to re-unite fathers with their children and to re-stabilize the family unit.
- Develop and implement Rites of Passage Programs to prepare children and youth for responsible adulthood.
- Implement non-violent/conflict resolution educational programs.
- Provide educational recreational activities.
- Develop and implement training programs for youthful babysitters/child care persons.
- Establish infant massage programs for new mothers.
- Create and incorporate respite care or in-home visitation programs to help model optimal parental behaviors with parents and caregivers.

What Businesses in the District Can Do!

- Pay employees a living wage.
- Provide alternative work arrangements including flex time, job sharing and telecommuting to allow families to spend more time together.
- Provide benefits for part-time workers.
- Provide internships, apprenticeships, training programs and jobs for young people and persons moving from welfare to work.
- Provide incentives for staff to volunteer at local schools and youth organizations.
- Increase funding support for prevention programs.
- Develop and promote public awareness activities to enhance health and well-being, and to eliminate incidences of abuse and neglect.
- Increase funding for prevention programs.
- Provide financial support for organizations committed to serving children and youth.
- Use the data in the D.C. KIDS COUNT Book to inform funding priorities.

What the District Government, The Control Board, and Congress Can Do!

- Increase funding for each government and non-profit agency that benefit children and supports families.
- Support, expand, and enhance existing programs and services that intervene in the lives of children early, respond to their changing developmental needs, and continue over sustained periods of time.
- Consider the developmental needs of children in policy and legislative decisions that impact them and their families.
- Increase employment opportunities for adults moving from Welfare to Work.
- Increase subsidies for child care.
- Authorize increased funding levels for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- Ensure that all residents have the same opportunities.
- Ensure that all communities are safe places where children and youth can flourish.
- Use the data in this book to target funding for gaps in services and address unmet needs.
- Encourage input and feedback from all city residents to determine deficits in service delivery and to ensure that all available resources are distributed equitably.
- Create opportunities for youth and families to participate in the legislative process.
- Work with the private for profit and non-profit sectors to increase the supply of low cost and moderate housing.
- Ensure that all families have access to child care, employment and educational opportunities, and community support programs. Actively support community efforts to improve socioeconomic conditions and to promote values and norms that encourage healthy attitudes and behaviors.

What the Philanthropic Community Can Do!

- Provide financial and technical support to local community organizations to create and implement innovative cross-cutting programs.
- Promote and publicize best practices programs to stimulate support and replicate successful programs designed to improve outcomes for children and youth.
- Partner with community organizations to help them devise and implement fundraising strategies to sustain existing and to develop new preventative programs.
- Commit to providing technical and financial support for the long term to ensure the broader scope of implementation and stability of programs.
- Outsource development personnel to assist with technical grant solicitation or provide training to improve their organizational capacity to secure grants and administer funds.
- Use the Kids Count indicators to inform funding priorities for children/youth.

V.

A Word About the Data

Data Definitions and Sources
(in alaphabetical order)

We attempt to define our indicators clearly and adequately in the text, and to indicate data sources in all tables and charts. However, if some are not clear, the definitions and sources of the indicators follow. Where we feel there are important limitations in the data, these are also stated.

A number of the indicators are stated as percentages. For those whose math is rusty, a percentage is calculated by dividing the number of occurrences of a particular need or problem by some other quantity to which it is related — often the number of possible occurrences. Then, in order to make the result a whole number rather than a decimal fraction, it is multiplied by 100. For example, to get the percentage of all births that are to unmarried mothers, we divide the number of births to unmarried mothers by the total number of births, then multiply the result by 100.

TANF Payments

How Defined: The annual average number of children covered by public assistance payments in the most recent calendar year. TANF stands for "Temporary Assistance to Needy Families." It replaces "Aid To Families With Dependent Children."

Source: Commission on Social Services, Income Maintenance Administration, D.C. Department of Human Services

Babies Born Without Adequate Prenatal Care

How Defined: The annual average number and/or percent of infants born to mothers who received no prenatal care or either inadequate or intermediate care, based on the Institute of Medicine criteria, as shown in the table below.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Limitation(s): These and all other vital statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection, i.e. the latest statistics in this year's report are for 1998.

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE CRITERIA FOR ADEQUACY OF PRENATAL CARE

Category	If Gestation is (in Weeks):	And Number of Prenatal Visits is at Least:
Adequate	13 or Less	1
	14 to 17	2
	18 to 21	3
	22 to 25	4
	26 to 29	5
	30 to 31	6
	32 to 33	7
	34 to 35	8
	36 or More	9
	And Number of Prenatal Visits is No More Than:	
Inadequate	14 to 21	0
	22 to 29	1
	30 to 31	2
	32 to 33	3
	34 or More	4
Intermediate	All Combinations Other Than Above	

Births to Single Mothers

How Defined: The annual number and/or percent of births that occur to mothers who do not report themselves as married when registering for the birth.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Limitation(s): These and all other vital statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection, i.e., the latest statistics in this year's report are for 1998.

Births to Teenage Mothers

How Defined: The annual number and/or percent of births that are to women or girls between 15 and 19 years of age. Note that many of these young mothers are legally adults.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Limitation(s): Vital statistics by age are normally reported for five-year age groups, e.g., 15-19. The national KIDS COUNT Data Books report these numbers in the same way. These and all other vital statistics (such as deaths) are not available until the second year following their collection, i.e., the latest statistics in this year's report are for 1998.

Child Abuse and Neglect Cases

How Defined: The annual number of new cases filed with the D.C. Superior Court alleging child abuse or neglect.

Source: The Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts

Limitation(s): These are cases alleging child abuse or neglect, not verified occurrences. The D.C. Government does keep track of verified instances of child abuse; the numbers are considerably smaller. However, there may be a variety of reasons why actual abuses might not be verified. Both measures probably understate the extent of the problem. Both can probably serve better as indicators of change in the magnitude of the problem rather than as exact measures of the magnitude itself. Court statistics are not available for wards or other sub-areas of the District.

Child Support Cases

How Defined: The annual number of new cases filed for child support in the District of Columbia.

Source: The Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts

Limitation(s): Court statistics are not available for wards or other sub-areas of the District.

Graduation Rate:

How Defined: The percentage of the number of students enrolled in 10th grade who graduate three years later. Note that the graduates are not necessarily all the same children, but may include some who entered the D.C. schools after 10th grade.

Source: Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools

Homeless Children and Families

How Defined: Those children and families who do not have a permanent home in which they can live. They may be housed in shelters or in transitional housing, staying with family or friends, or may be totally without shelter.

Source: The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness

Infant Mortality Rate

How Defined: The number of deaths to infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births.

Note that this is not a percentage.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Limitation(s): These and all other vital statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection, i.e., the latest data in this year's report are for 1998. Because the rate of infant deaths in the District, while far too high (nearly twice the national rate), still represents a relatively small number of actual deaths, fairly large fluctuations in the rate from year to year have been common. These fluctuations have often been reversed the next year. Particular care should therefore be taken not to infer too much from the change in the rate for any one year.

Juvenile Cases

How defined: The annual number of new cases filed against juveniles (under 18) in The D.C. Superior Court.

Source: The Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts

Limitation(s): Court statistics are not available for wards or other sub-areas of the District.

Low Birth Weight Babies

How Defined: The annual number of babies born at weights under 3.5 pounds or 2,500 grams.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Limitation(s): These and all other vital statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection; i.e., the latest data in this year's report are for 1998.

Paternity Cases

How Defined: The number of new cases alleging paternity filed with the D.C. Superior Court.

Source: The Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts

Limitation(s): Court statistics are not available for wards or other sub-areas of the District.

Teen Violent Deaths

How Defined: The annual number of deaths from violent causes (accident, murder, or suicide) to persons aged 15 to 19.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Limitation(s): These and all other Vital Statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection; i.e., the latest data in this year's report are from 1998.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Congratulations are extended to advocates of the District's Children, including families, neighborhoods, individuals and organizations who have advocated for children and who have made the publication of this annual Fact Book possible.

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Art and poetry provided by D.C. Public School students, Kindergarten through 8th grade.

D.C. KIDS COUNT ON TOUR 2000 CONTEST

"Why Every Kid Counts in the District of Columbia"

The D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative sponsored an Art and Poetry Contest to highlight the extraordinary talents of students in Kindergarten through 8th grade in the D.C. Public School System. Contestant entries were judged on originality, creativity, design, and expression of theme. Awardees will receive prizes and their entries will be featured on location at various sites in the District and in D.C. KIDS COUNT Publications.

HURRAH to All of Our Stars!

KINDERGARTEN - 2ND GRADE

1st Place — **DeMario Ford (Art)**
7 years old, 1st grade
Amidon Elementary School

2nd Place — **Irma Reyes (Poetry)**
8 years old, 2nd grade
Meyer School

3rd Place — **Ji-Er Yang (Art)**
7 years old, 1st grade
Thomson Elementary

3RD - 5TH GRADE

1st Place — **Andre Wilkinson (Art)**
8 years old, 3rd grade
Amidon Elementary

2nd Place — **Celena H. Dopart (Art)**
9 years old, 4th grade
Watkins Elementary

3rd place — Tied
Dominique Huertas & Briane Dockery

Dominque Huertas (Art)
8 years old, 3rd grade
Randle Highlands Elementary

Briane Dockery (Poetry)
9 years old, 3rd grade
Meyer M.I.N.D. Academy

Honorable Mentions —
Brittany Nicole McCorkle & Jasmine Young

Brittany Nicole McCorkle (Poetry)
9 years old, 4th grade
Meyer Elementary

Jasmine Young (Poetry)
8 years old, 3rd grade
Randle Highlands Elementary

6TH - 8TH GRADE

1st Place —**Tobi Odunlami (Poetry)**
13 years old, 7th grade
Terrell Junior High School

2nd Place — **Nency Sanchez (Art)**
12 years old, 6th grade
Thomas Elementary School

3rd Place — **Guorui Deng (Art)**
12 years old, 6th grade
Thomas Elementary

Honorable Mentions —
Keshanna Foster, Gregory Miller & Artavia Palmer

Keshanna Foster (Art)
13 years old, 6th grade
Amidon Elementary

Gregory William Miller (Poetry)
12 years old, 6th grade
Amidon Elementary

Artavia Palmer (Poetry)
12 years old, 5th grade
Amidon Elementary

Poetry

1st Place

Why Kids Count in D.C.

We the children of D.C.
Are the future of tomorrow
And we can't be ignored
We will grow and prosper
With the best there is to offer
We are diverse and outspoken
But let me tell you, we have not been broken
We cry with tears in our eyes
When the Boom! Boom! From the guns
Bring Doom! Doom! To our guts.
We are not perfect
That is not an affect
We are the future of the land
Which you should nurture with great hands
We stride for our best
Which gives us life's great tests
That is why..... I am not just a kid
I'm the future of the District of Columbia

TOBY ODUNLAMI
Age 13 – Grade 7
Terrell Junior High School
Washington, D.C.

Second Place

Why I Count

A future teacher I shall be
To teach the children of D.C.
I'll teach them to read and write
And even how to be polite
I'll teach in D.C.'s Public Schools
Where children follow rules
I'll show the children how to be
Model citizens of D.C.
I'm just a kid you can see
But when I grow up I'll feel the need
To teach the children of D.C.
That's why I count.

IRMA REYES
Age 8 – Grade 2
Meyer School
Washington, D.C.

Third Place

I'm The Future of D.C.

I'm the future of D.C.
I can be anything I want to be
A football player at MCI
A wrestler like the Rock
I can be anything I want to be
'Cause I'm the future of D.C.
I may have Mayor Williams' job
Or Mr. Clinton's post
That is what I'll like to do the most
I can be anything I want to be
'Cause I'm the future of D.C.
A teacher in our public schools,
Now wouldn't that be really cool
A TV director on channel 4
Bringing you the evening news
A fireman upon the truck or
Chief of police would be a treat!
I'm the future of D.C.
I can be anything I want to be.

BRIANE DOCKERY
Age 9 – Grade 3
Meyer M.I.N.D. Academy
Washington, D.C.

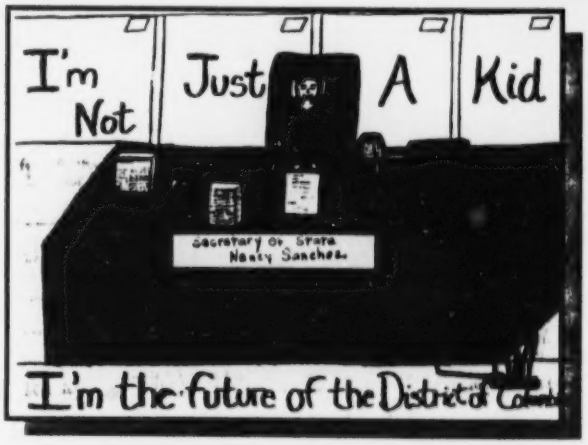
Art

1st Place

ANDRE WILKINSON
Age 8, Grade 3
Amidon Elementary School
Washington, D.C.

2nd Place

NANCY SANCHEZ
Age 12, Grade 6
Thomas Elementary School
Washington, D.C.



2nd Place

CELENA H. DOPART
Age 9, Grade 4
Watkins Elementary School
Washington, D.C.

3rd Place

JI-ER YANG
Age 7, Grade 1
Thompson Elementary School
Washington, D.C.

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